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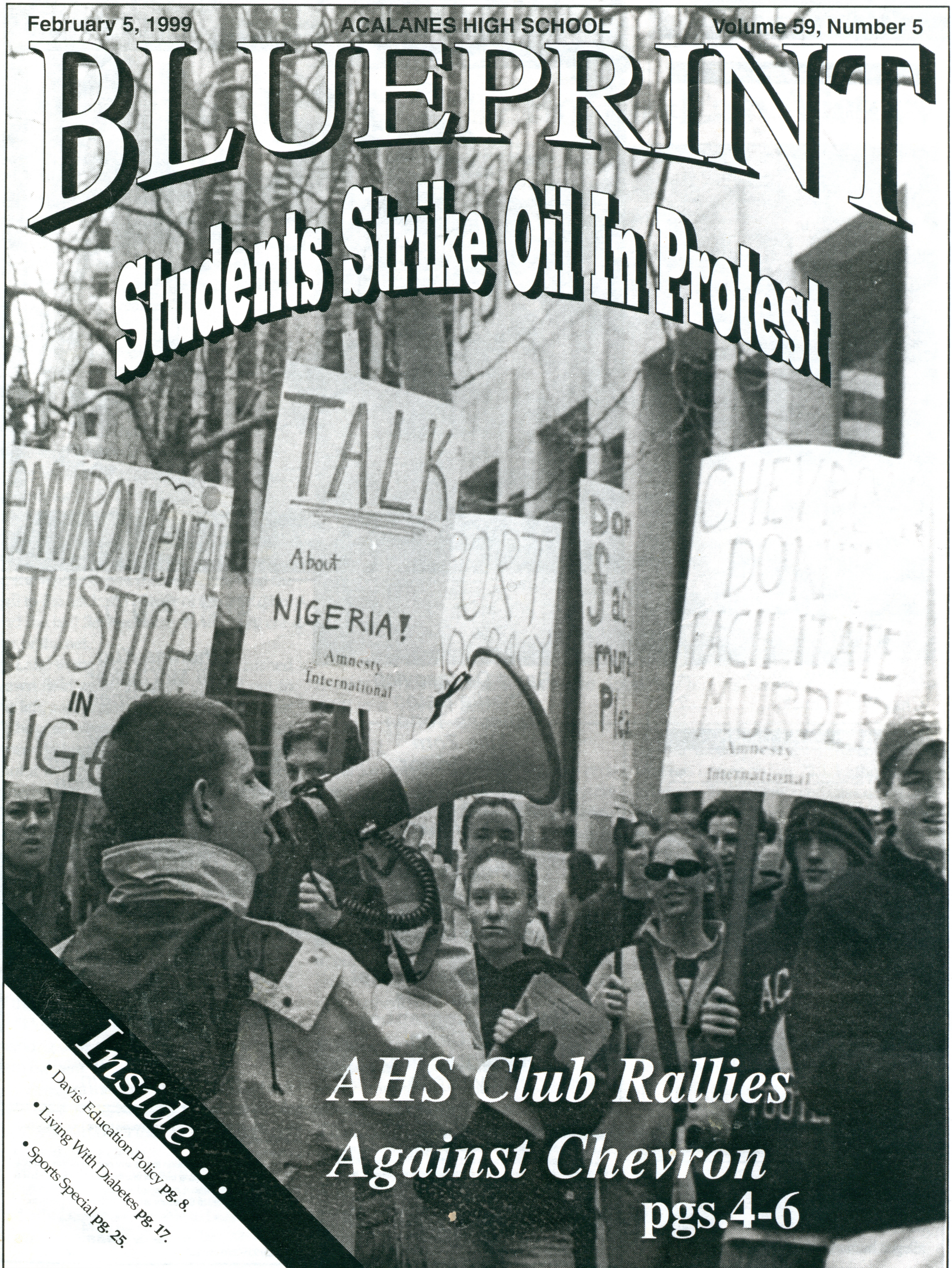
BLUEPRINT

Students Strike Oil In Protest


ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE
IN
NIGE
TALK
About
NIGERIA!
Amnesty International
PORT
CHEVRO
DON'T
FACILITATE
MURDER
Amnesty International

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Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini

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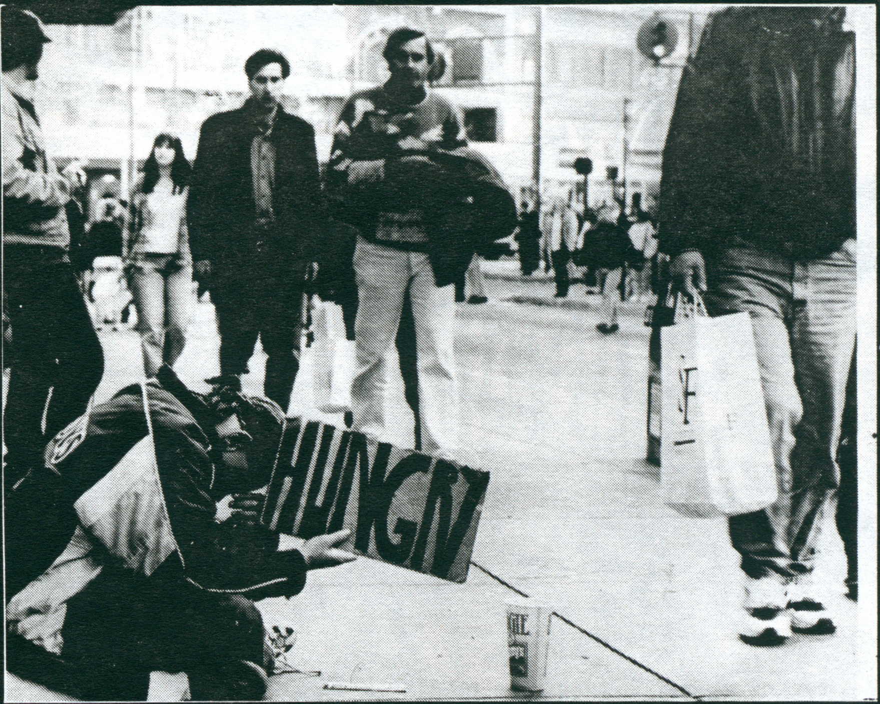
ON THE COVER: Acalanes students rally in front of Chevron Headquarters in San Francisco in protest of the company's alleged human rights violations in Nigeria.

Photo of the Issue



Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini

A pedestrian strolls by carrying a bag of recently acquired merchandise as he gazes upon a hungry, homeless youth in San Francisco.

Blueprint '98-'99

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Editorials, with or without bylines, reflect the opinions of the editorial writer(s) and are independent of the opinions of the school administration, student body, faculty, advisor and staff.

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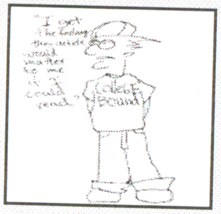


Davis' Education Policy.
pg.8

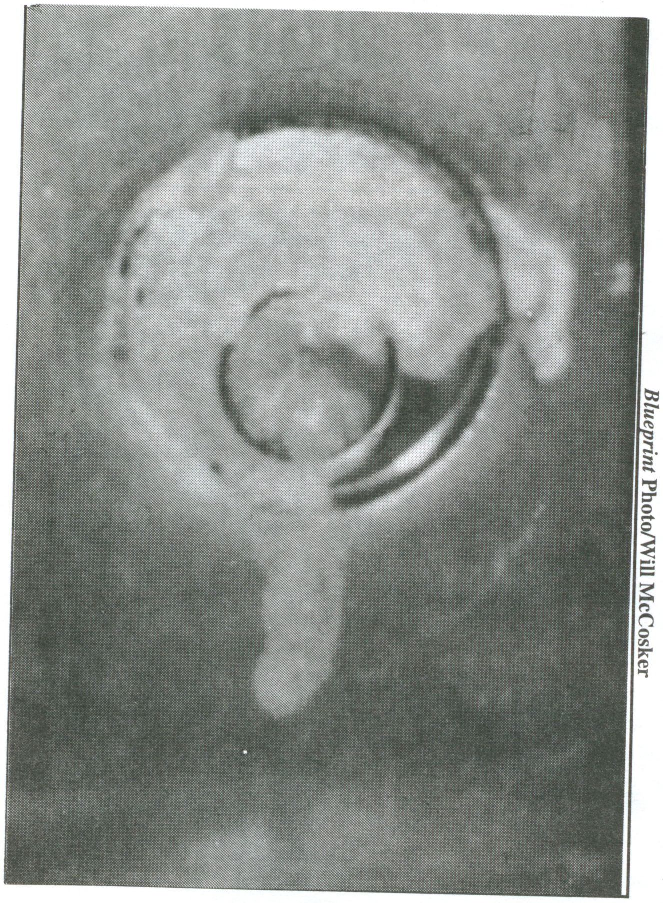
LOCK PRANK

Student Prank Creates Sticky Situation

By Hannah Hens-Piazza
News Editor

Acalanes administrators are looking at ways to protect the school's locks from vandalism, such as purchasing new digital locks that can be broken into, after a prank left most of the school unable to be opened one morning last month and after a similar incident took place just days ago.

The Acalanes custodians and administrators were forced to rush into action on the morning of Jan. 14 in a effort to open all classrooms doors that had been vandalized before school began. Two and a half weeks later, they found themselves once again trying to pick open several locks throughout the school.



Blueprint Photo/Will McCosker

The locks of several Acalanes classrooms, like this one, were found vandalized on the morning of Jan. 14 with a sticky substance and had to be sprayed with WD-40.

According to custodian Everett Woolfolk, a sticky silicone substance was put into the locks of about 90% of Acalanes classroom doors the night before Jan. 14, preventing them from being opened. The similar February incident covered about 75% of the school, according to Gaines Caldwell, the district's locksmith.

Caldwell said small nails, about three-fourths inches in length, were glued together, two at a time, and jammed into classroom doors the night before Feb. 2.

"I wish the people that did this would come up with something original," said a frustrated Woolfolk as he worked at picking open one of the many silicone-damaged locks.

According to secretary Linda Giannotti, the last custodian leaves the campus at 12:30 at night. Teachers and custodians arrive early the next morning, which leaves little time for night vandalism of the school, especially vandalism as extensive as this.

"It's 12:30 at night, and if this is some of our kids, where are their parents, and what are the kids doing out at 12:30 on a school night?" asked Giannotti.

The labor costs alone were about $600 on Jan. 14 and about $200 on Feb. 2, said Caldwell. He also had to purchase some additional materials to repair the damaged locks.

Principal Keith Schmidt said the situation is being considered as a student prank, and that this particular prank has occurred in the past. The recent incidents, though, covered more classrooms than usual.

Woolfolk said he first noticed the problem when he tried to get into the administration building Thurs. morning at 6:15 AM. "We eventually had to call a locksmith out to clean out all the locks because the silicone gets caught up in the locks and they don't act properly... Some keys wouldn't even go in at all," said Woolfolk.

The silicone caulking had to be dissolved to let the keys in and open the doors. The custodians and Caldwell had to pick out the nails after the February incident. All of the classrooms were able to be opened before the start of school except for two. The locksmith was not able to leave right away, though, because he had to finish fixing the locks completely.

"It seems like the purpose for doing this--because this has happened over the years--has been to keep school from happening. Well, that has never happened. If you put glue in the locks, you're still going to school," said Woolfolk.

CHEVRON PROTEST

Students Rally Against Chevron for Respect

Courtesy Photo

Senior Matt Blits uses a bullhorn to inform pedestrians of alleged human rights violations at an Amnesty International protest of Chevron in San Francisco.

By Nathalie de Leon
Staff Writer

Over 50 students from Acalanes High School joined in a demonstration Jan. 25 to protest against Chevron's involvement in Nigeria, alleging that the company is guilty of various violations of human rights.

The school's Amnesty International club launched the campaign, claiming that Chevron's business practices in Nigeria support the military regime, use military forces to put down protests, and harm the environment.

"We accused Chevron of facilitating the murder of unarmed, nonviolent protesters on the Parabe oil rig on May 28th," said Amnesty group coordinator Charlie Eaton.

A spokesman for the Nigerian General Consulate in New York said that though Nigeria may have committed human rights violations in the past, they no longer do.

"We have gone so far beyond that. We're holding democratic elections now," he said. "(The students) are just protesting out of ignorance."

Six days prior to the protest, Amnesty Acalanes, in conjunction with Project Underground, another human rights organization, requested a meeting with Chevron officials to discuss the Nigeria situation. Amnesty planned to demand that Chevron adhere to the stipulations of the Kayama Declaration, which calls for the temporary halt of oil flow from Nigeria. According to Eaton, Chevron declined to meet. They later said they did not think the meeting would be productive.

The hour-long rally was held in front of Chevron World Headquarters in San Francisco, where they formed a picket line, holding signs saying, "Chevron Don't Facilitate Murder," and "People instead of Profit." Charlie Eaton, Matt Blits, Matt Berry, Chris Eaton and Ellen Love spoke, calling for improvement in human rights policies. During the protest, they tried to deliver a letter to Chevron management, but were not allowed to enter the building. They gave the letter, further requesting a meeting, to someone else who worked there and were promised a response.

The response came one week later in a letter from Public Affairs Vice President A.M. Caccamo, which said, "I appreciate your interest in Chevron's Nigeria operations.... I also want to assure you that as we go about our business, we maintain a regular and productive dialogue with the leaders of the people who live in the areas where we work."

Eaton said the letter used "evasive language and didn't directly address our request."

"We think that the people in Nigeria who we meet with... have the best understanding of their own needs," said Fred Garell, Chevron spokesperson. "Their interests cannot be represented by other groups."

Students say they "targeted Chevron because they're a local corporation and a corporation that operates in our backyard," said Eaton.

Though Chevron refused to meet with Amnesty and other human rights groups, Eaton was optimistic about the outcome of the protest.

"I think that we made a difference by sending a message to Chevron," said Eaton. "Because next time they're confronted with

ADVISORS' NOTE

The lead story in this issue presented several challenges for Blueprint since three of our editors in chief and a section editor led or participated in the protest. We concluded that it would not be appropriate for any of them to write or have any editorial influence over any of the related stories.

We also agreed, despite running the risk that covering the story could appear to some that Blueprint is generating its own news, that this was a newsworthy story about student activism and an event which some professional media have covered.

Finally, we were concerned about the perception that editors may be using Blueprint to further their own political or social agendas.

With that in mind, we assigned reporters who were not involved and would be willing and able to treat this with the same scrutiny and objectivity as any other story.

– Larry Freeman & Marshall Grodin

the situation with nonviolent protesters, they will think twice before they call in... the Nigerian Mobile Police."

Gorell said he is glad the students brought these concerns into light. He said it gave Chevron an opportunity to clarify the issues.

"Really, we want the same things.... What the students want is a better life for people in Nigeria. So do we," said Gorell.

The claims of human rights abuse follows a series of protests in Nigeria involving Chevron, including the May 25 seizure of the Parabe Offshore Platform.

According to the San Francisco Chronicle, 121 Nigerian activists seized the platform, and after four days of attempted negotiations, the federal law enforcement boarded the platform, and ultimately, two protesters were shot and killed.

Eaton said it took them this long to stage a protest because "the Parabe incident was not... reported until September, and our group didn't hear about it until November." According to Eaton, they then searched for support from organizations to set up the protest.

The exact events of the four day standoff are in dispute. Chevron maintains that they tried everything they could to avoid a violent situation. According to their press release, the protesters were armed with machetes, knives, and clubs. These activists allegedly held 200 Chevron employees hostage on the platform, and Chevron says they would not concede, and when law enforcement arrived, a protester tried to seize an officer's weapon, which led to the shootings.

Amnesty contends that the Chevron press releases were wrong, because "they changed their stories multiple times, as documented by Pacifica Radio and the Chronicle," said Eaton. "Initially, in reports, Chevron said the protestors were unarmed and nonviolent... and then they changed their story to say, 'actually, the protesters took hostages.' But there was still no mention of weapons. And in a third report, Chevron changed its story again, finally saying the protestors were armed with machetes, knives, and clubs."

According to Chevron's database, initial Chevron press releases about the incident made no mention of the activists' weapons, and state that "Chevron Nigeria Ltd. called law enforcement to ensure the safety of the hostages."

Chevron now says it was Nigerian National Oil Company (NNO), which has a 60% interest in this drilling joint-venture, who called the police and brought in helicopters.

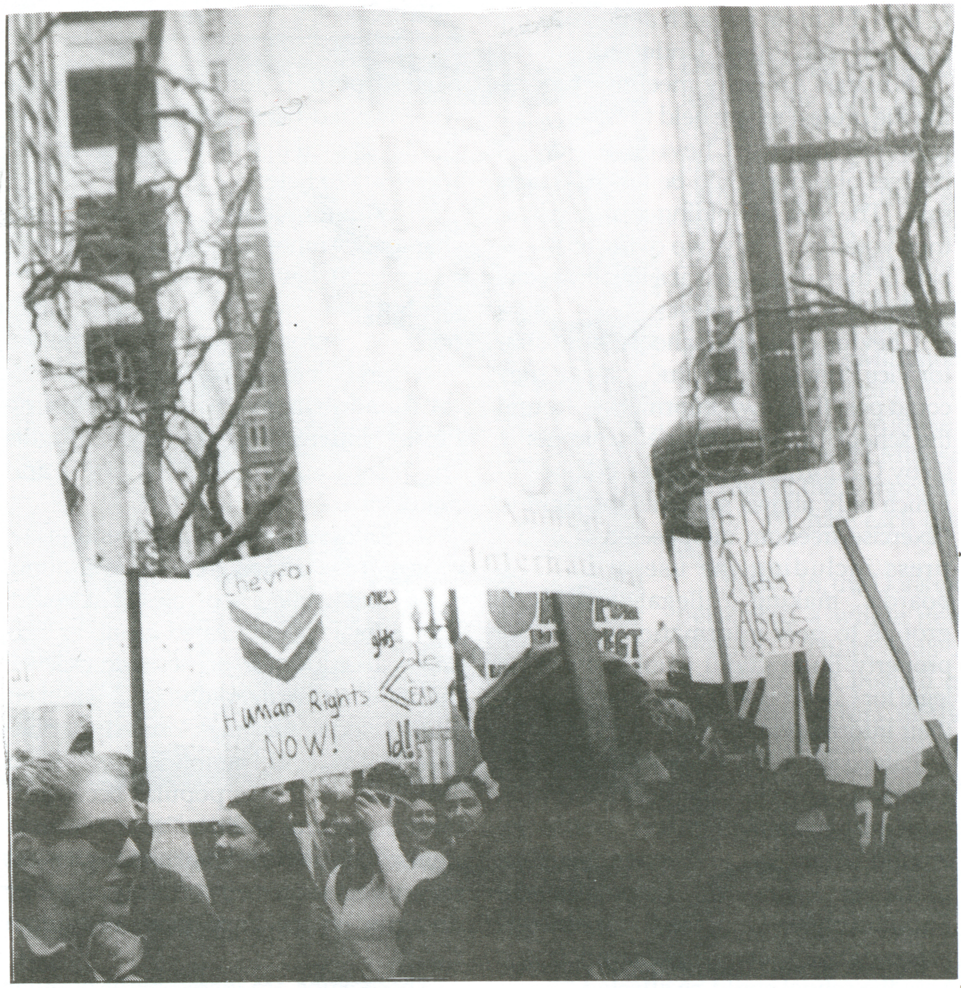
Garell said the initial reports were mistaken because the public affairs official in Nigeria is Nigerian, and his perception of the word "armed" implied guns. He also said that people initially believed that Chevron called in the military because the management called the NNO, which in turn called the military.

The Nigerian government is guilty of various human rights violations according to Amnesty International (London), the United Nations, and Chevron. Amnesty International said that the Nigerian government has held "scores of prisoners of conscience... among them, the winner of the 1993 presidential elections, Moshood Abiola," who has since died. Amnesty Acalanes claims that Chevron is indirectly responsible for these violations because it gives the government money in the form of taxes, fees, and royalties.

Chevron said however that its international policy of investment is "to refrain from partisan involvement in the internal politics of... host countries in which (they) operate."

Eaton said, "Pumping millions of dollars into a military dictatorship is hardly nonpartisan involvement."

Amnesty is now promoting a boycott of Chevron, and plans to suspend the campaign to act as a standby force for other human rights groups.



Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini

Freshmen and Amnesty International club member Mike Rogers holds a sign condeming Chevron's alleged actions in Nigeria .

CHEVRON PROTEST

Activism Takes a Left Turn

By Jeni Wolowic
Staff Writer

RICHARD
KLIER

Acalanes Amnesty International Group Coordinator, Charlie Eaton, leads a discussion about the group's future plans regarding its Chevron campaign on Friday Jan. 29.

The story made 35 seconds of TV and an article in the Contra Costa Times, but Acalanes student activists say it took several weeks of research and two weeks of planning before the Jan. 25 protest.

The protest was spurred by an incident last May when protesters allegedly took hostages onboard an oil platform and Chevron provided transportation and ammunition for Nigerian Mobile Police to fly in and disperse the protesters, ending in the death of two of the protesters.

The situation became known to Acalanes Amnesty leaders Charlie Eaton and Damon Peters in November. Amnesty then did more research and joined the coalition with Project Underground.

Acalanes Amnesty meetings preceding the protest where held to "discuss allegations against Chevron and what courses of action could be taken," Eaton said. The idea of holding a protest was then voted on. Only two of the 65 members of the club present at a meeting were against holding a protest.

Chevron contacted school administrator Vice Principal Jerry Bucci so that they could post their own information around the school, but were banned from doing so by California Education Code 48907, which only allows students the right to "exercise freedom of speech and of the press including the use of bulletin boards," making it illegal for outside groups to post information on school property. Bucci said it would have been legal for Chevron to find a student to post their information for them.

Eaton said Acalanes Amnesty believes Chevron contacted the administration "not just to make contact, but to go around (Amnesty) to dampen the effect of the demonstration." Eaton also said Bucci "expressed concern about the legal proceedings of our demonstration and how the school could be affected."

Chevron contacted the South San Francisco Police Dept., who then contacted Acalanes Amnesty about obtaining the needed permits for the protest. None were needed because no sound equipment was used to violate a city ordinance according to Eaton.

Fifty-five members of the Acalanes chapter of Amnesty international protested against Chevron in front of Chevron headquarters over human rights violations the company allegedly committed in Nigeria, demanding they talk to a local human right's coalition including Project Underground, the People's Rights Organization, Acalanes Amnesty, and many others.

Acalanes Amnesty was "careful in the course of the campaign to do everything legally and within school rules," Eaton said.

"We're a well educated group of kids and with education comes a conscience for making sure everyone is well looked after," making Acalanes Amnesty as popular as it is, said Damon Peters. Eaton also believed it was popular because, " there's nothing political about human rights." He also said that although most may not agree on their political party, they do agree on the importance of human rights.

These clubs are increasingly popular because "we're mostly upper middle class suburban kids and there's a need to get out and do something so we're choosing to help human rights rather than do drugs," said Sophomore Zoe Palitz.

The curriculum and the influence of teachers has been a large factor in getting students thinking about politics and the difference they can make, Eaton said. It was also encouraged to take action by reports of other student protest and the changes they were creating.

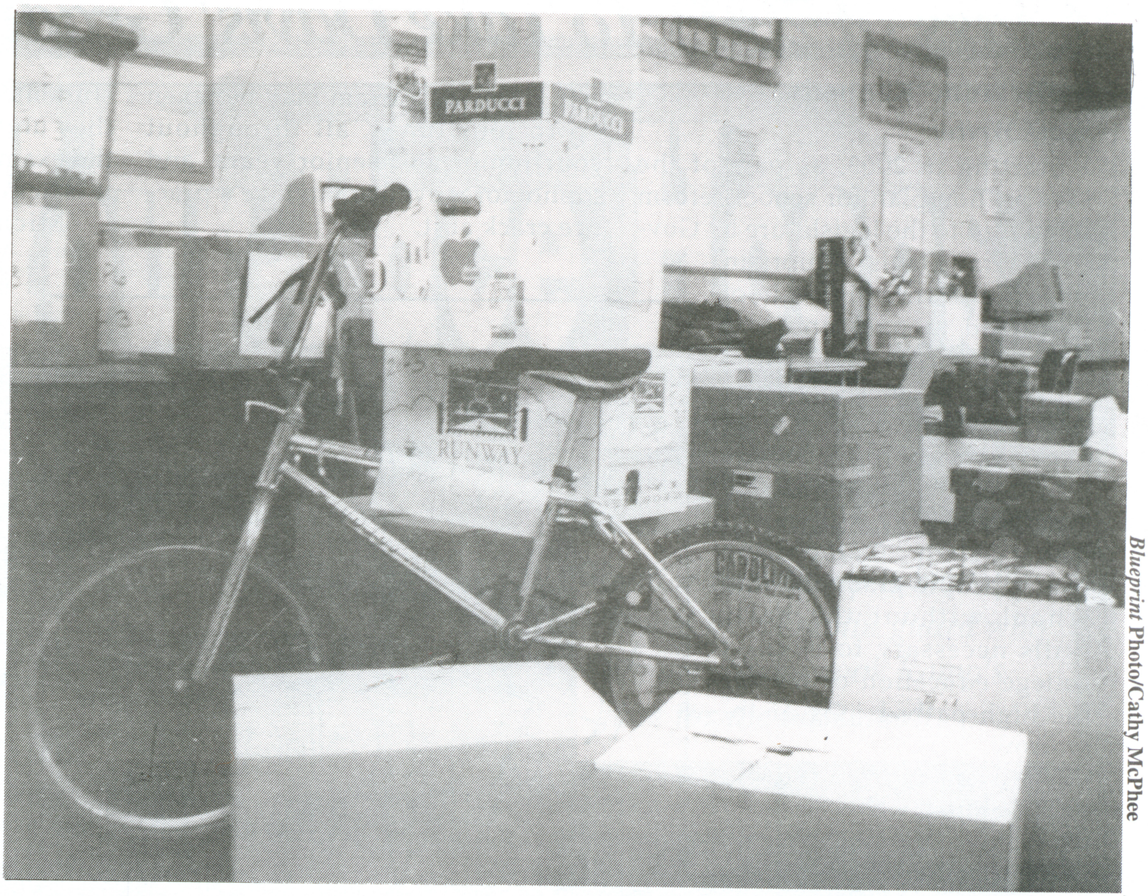
History teacher Ramsay Thomas said the support for clubs such as Amnesty International at Acalanes is due to the student leaders who have influenced their friends to support their ideas, "and some of the leaders of this senior class have decided go in more leftist directions, and it could easily swing back in a few years."

Eaton also said that he believed that a "new political culture is emerging." Thomas agreed, saying "in the culture at large there is some understanding that total devotion to free market capitalism has some negative effects and we better be more careful about them."

"Even the most conservative would recognize that there are some atrocities that should not go on," said Amnesty Advisor Mike McAlister. The protest was an "amazing example of people sticking up for people who can't stick up for themselves" and an "example of the privileged saying this isn't right and I think it's wonderful."

Adopt-A-Family Reaches New Bounds

By James Sherwood
Staff Writer



Blueprint Photo/Cathy McPhee

Gifts from many Acalanes communitations classes are stored in Rod Keillior's room waiting to be delivered to needy families in Contra Costa County by Leadership students.

Acalanes participated in the widely successful Adopt-A-Family program last December, generating gifts and food for 25 Contra Costa County families.

The communication classes which chose to be involved were given a family to sponsor and asked to donate two gifts to each family member along with money for food. Different classes decided to delegate tasks differently.

Most required every student to bring in a certain amount of money to be pooled. Then, some students volunteered to buy gifts; one practical and the other recreational for each family member. Other classes donated gifts, but everyone contributed tremendously.

This was the first year Acalanes got involved in this activity, but due to its large success, it won't be the last. Rod Keillor, Director of Student Activities who organized Acalanes' involvement, said, "The student body's willingness to help others contributed to its success, and from the information I received, the classes really got involved. I was elated to hear there were such a large number of classes that wanted to participate, and it was great to find out that our school generated so many gifts."

Sophomore Matt Seibert said, "Every day I would go home feeling better about myself, knowing that I had made a difference in the world."

The group that plans the program is the Volunteer Center of Contra Costa County. This year there were 2,000 very needy families helped.

Each family has to go through a screening process, showing proof of residence and spending costs. Then the most needy families are chosen, and assigned to certain schools. There were five high schools involved with a total of 150 families. These families have houses all over Contra Costa County including Richmond, Pittsburgh, Antioch, and Concord.

Erika Appe, a volunteer at the center said, "A lot of them are seasonal farm workers, and it is very difficult for them to make a living during the winter. They are mostly Hispanic and some can't even read or write. You would not believe how happy and grateful these people are."

The volunteer center did reach its goal of 2,000 families this year, and that number is likely to go up. There are so many unfortunate families in this area that the help is much needed. "It is a real eye-opener to see how needy these people are. For us it is impossible to imagine that way of life, but for them it is only normal. That's why it is so great to see so many people trying to help," said Appe.

DAVIS' POLICY

'Exit Exam' To Pass For Seniors

Class of 2003 To Take Davis' Graduation Test

By Brianne Kennedy
Staff Writer

Starting in 2003, as part of the $444 million plan for school reform submitted to the legislature by Governor Gray Davis, seniors in every California high school will need to pass an "exit exam" in order to graduate.

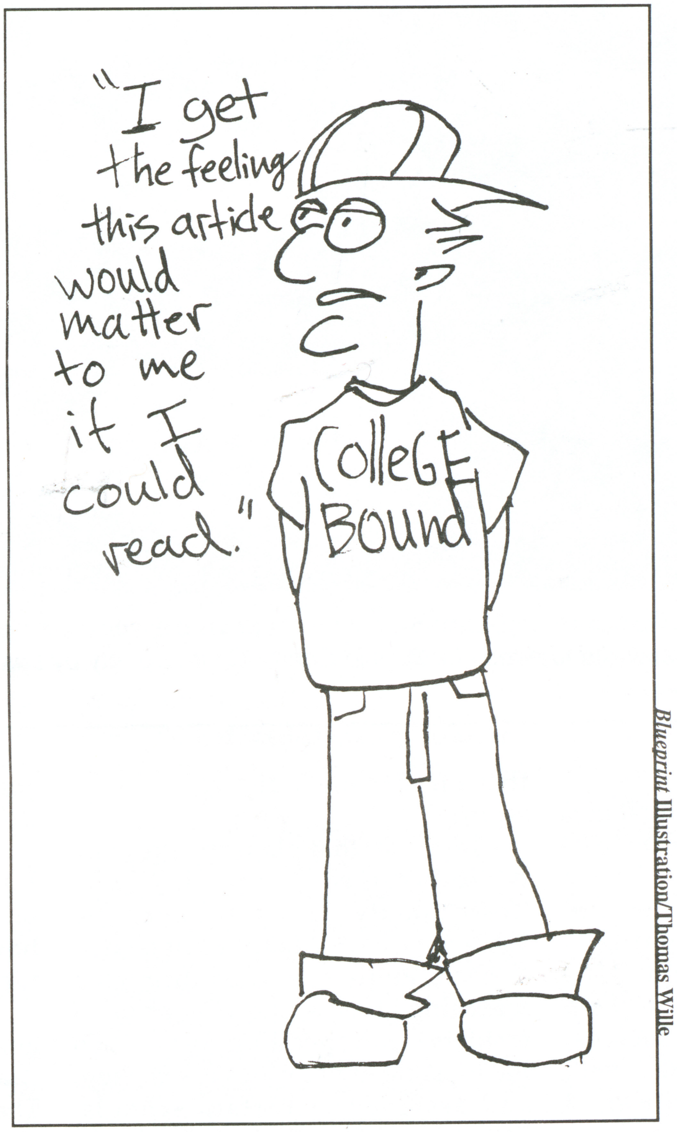
"When it comes to setting high expectations in education, I want California to lead the nation," said Davis in his State of the State Address on January sixth. "...too many young people graduate high school without the basic skills necessary to begin a college education or master the high-paying jobs of tomorrow."

The exam, if produced and implemented, will affect next year's high school freshmen.

Although considered part of Davis's plan for reforming education (which he has dubbed READ: Raising Expectations, Achievement and Development), the actual legislation addressing the mandatory exam (Senate Bill SBX1 2) was written by State Senator Jack O'Connell (D-Santa Barbara). The legislature began discussing it on Thursday, February 3rd.

Alabama is another state where exit exams will soon determine high school graduation. There, starting with the class of 2001, students will be required to pass all four sections of the Alabama High School Graduation Exam. The four sections are: reading, language, math, and science.

Also, rather than being an all or nothing, one time or pay the fine test, Alabama's exam may be taken up to four times, all throughout your junior and senior years, and sophomores even get to take a practice crack at it.


"I get the feeling this article would matter to me if I could read."
COLLEGE BOUND

Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

But what about kids with learning disabilities and those who say such a test is unfair? Alabama has these bases covered, too. There are special guidelines written for children with special needs, and both students and parents must sign that they understand the components of the exam--almost three years before it is actually given.

Michael Gross, principal of Vestavia Hills High School in Vestavia Hills, Alabama, said, even though his own particular school is "very academic", when it's given the first time, "a great many students around the state will not pass because of the lack of educational benefits."

Although no students currently at Acalanes will be affected by any "exit exam" that is produced for students in California, their reactions to the subject are mixed.

Sophomore Cecily Miller agrees that there should be an exam. "People that graduate from high school should be able to prove that they've reached a certain [academic] point," she said.

"You already take enough tests during the year," said Junior David Karol in protest of the planned test. "...and the SAT's are conclusive enough."

"The goal," said Gov. Davis of the planned graduation test, "is to assure students, parents, colleges, and employers that a high school diploma signifies that graduates are truly prepared for the demands of the New Economy."

Acalanes Principal Keith Schmidt said that he doesn't believe that the test will have a real effect on Acalanes students because they work so hard otherwise.

DRUG MEETING

Panel To Discuss Drug Rules

By James Sherwood
Staff Writer

Will a DUI stay on my record forever? If my friends smoke pot and I don't, can I get in trouble if they're caught? How will police officers know whether a teen driver is under the new driving rules? Can you be sited for breaking them?

A panel of legal experts is to assemble at Acalanes on Feb. 17 to answer legal questions from teens and their parents regarding drugs and alcohol in the community.

A survey that was released earlier this year concerning drugs and alcohol at Acalanes has caused many parents to be concerned. A meeting was held this October, but there were still many questions left unanswered.

Saundra Brown Armstrong, a judge in the United District Court of Northern California, who is organizing the panel meeting said, "It was clear after the last meeting that many parents and teens were not familiar with the processes of the law. It seemed like a good idea to have another meeting containing legal experts that could address these issues and clear up any questions."

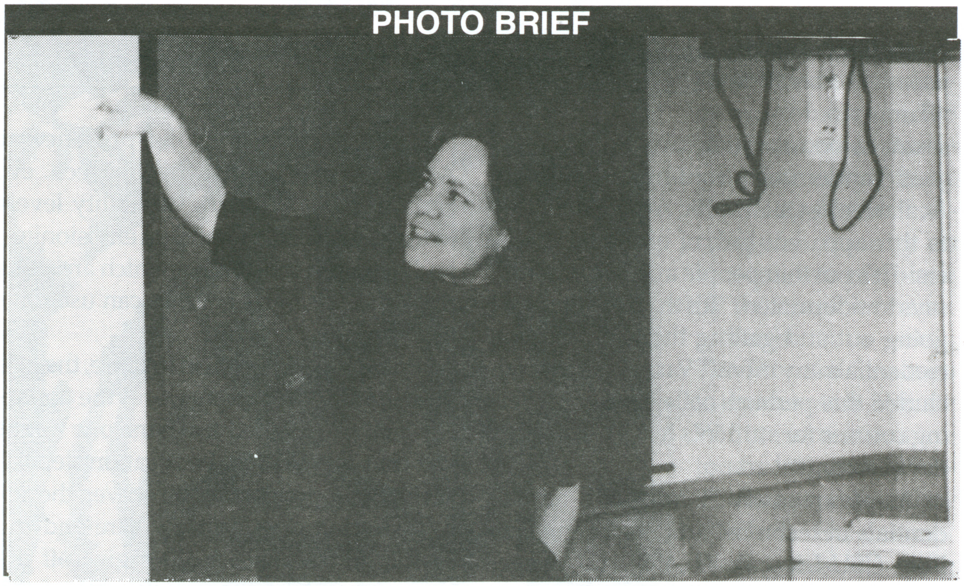
Most of the topics being discussed will be drugs, alcohol, drunk driving, unchaperoned parties, and other repercussions that may follow. The panel will consist of a judge, a probation officer, a supervising attorney, two district attorneys, a pediatrician, and a youth services officer. All of the people of the panel are members of the community that a juvenile would have to see when facing legal charges regarding drugs or alcohol.

Judge Armstrong said, "This should be an effective way to provide information so the parents can come up with ways to advise their youngsters, and so the teens can make their decisions knowing what the consequences are."

Hilma Jones, another organizer of the event, said, "These are professionals that are familiar with the community and very resourceful. The main goal here is to talk to the students and make sure they understand the legal facts."

This year there has been a widespread concern amongst parents about drugs and alcohol in the Acalanes School District. A lot of this concern was sparked by a survey that a local journalist did on drugs and alcohol in our community a few months ago.

PHOTO BRIEF



Blueprint Photo/Cathy McPhee

Discussing the meaning of life is not as important as it used to be to the student body at Acalanes. The humanities group, which meets every Tuesday night, and offers a series of four classes that go in chronological order, is struggling to stay alive.

NUGGET

Accident Or Incident?

Principal Keith Schmidt released a memo to all AHS teachers advising them to "ward off rumors" in regards to an incident that occurred between Miramonte and Acalanes students after the home basketball game between the two schools on Friday Jan. 22.

According to the memo, Miramonte Principal Dennis Regalado broke up a crowd of Miramonte and Acalanes students causing the Miramonte students to get into their car and the Acalanes students to walk toward the main parking lot. As the car with the Miramonte students in it reached the AHS students, it "swerved to the left and struck an AHS student from behind," according to Schmidt's note.

The student remained at the hospital for one night, and has stayed home for the past two weeks due to the incident.

The Lafayette police explained that the incident was an accident, and "not an assault with a vehicle." According to the memo, the police determined that "as the car approached the walking students, one of the students appeared to be about to step down from the curb onto the road in front of the car...The panicked passenger in the front seat grabbed the wheel and yanked it to the left....the car struck a student walking on the left."

The victim explained that he was "walking down the street and got hit" and could not recall anything that would have provoked the incident intentionally.

Schmidt released the memo to teachers so they could let students know the facts about the situation and prevent "rumors from running rampant," according to Principal's Secretary Linda Giannotti.

INDUSTRIAL ARTS

High Demand For Tech Ed Classes

By Blake Koelmel
Staff Writer

As it is nearing the time of year for course sign-ups again, the underlying question among many students will be, "Did I get the courses I wanted, or was I put into Study Hall?"

For those who receive Study Hall in place of a desired course, they only have one other chance to get the course they want and that is early one morning of the new school year. However, by 7:15 that morning, the line is usually winding way past the cafeteria. For the frustrated student stuck with Study Hall, it soon become evident that getting the schedule changed is like trying to get gas during a third world fuel crisis.

This was frequently the case earlier this year. Many Acalanes students who attempted to get into technical education courses like Auto Shop, Wood Shop, or Graphic Arts were denied access due to lack of space. In Auto Shop alone, out of the 116 students that applied at the beginning of this year, only 82 students got in.

This lack of space is not a new problem. "Freshman year, I tried to get into Graphic Arts but couldn't," said Junior John Shen. "The counselors told me there wasn't enough room."

This schedule crunch may be attributable to several complications in the system of providing enough classes for the students. For one, there definitely seems to be a lack of sections available for Head Counselor Bob Gangi to divy up.

Sections are the number of periods that a course is offered. If there are not enough sections, said Gangi, then some courses, like Auto Shop, will be short a section or two. Since a max of 28 students can be in a section, some students will be left out of the courses that did not receive enough sections.

Another reason for the shortage of sections given to technical education courses, like Wood Shop, Auto, and Graphic Arts, could also be the apparent college pressure to choose between an AP course and a technical education course. Out of the 142 people Blueprint polled, 60% of the students said that they would choose an AP course over a technical education course. When asked whether or not technical education courses were viewed as useful classes, the majority agreed that they were.

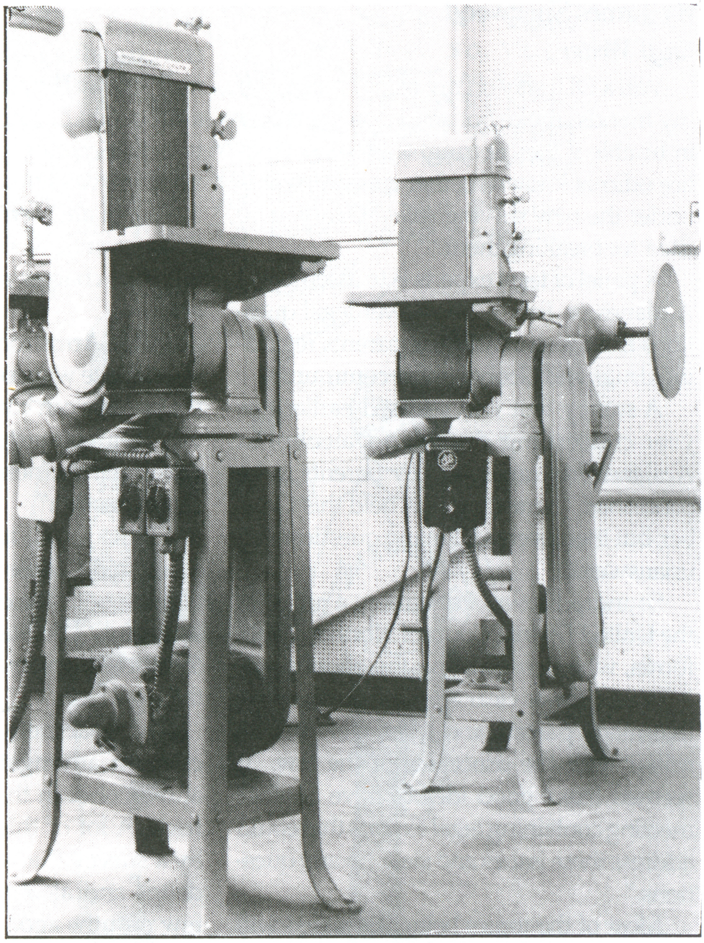
Johanna Vandermolen, the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, suggests a different reason for the problematic shortage of sections per course. Vandermolen explains that each teacher can teach a max of five sections a day, as set by the teacher's union, and that, in the cases of Auto and Wood, both teachers are already teaching five sections a day.

She also points out that teachers for such courses have a special credential in technical education which no longer seems as popular to obtain. Already this year, Vandermolen continues to explain, Acalanes lost a Graphic Arts course due to this apparent lack of qualified teachers. "It's not that people aren't applying," says Vandermolen. "It's that people aren't going out and getting the technical arts credentials any more." Vandermolen concluded that perhaps colleges aren't offering courses for students to earn a credential in technical arts.

As of now, only 11 colleges offer credentials in technical arts, including Cal. Poly, CSU Long Beach, CSU Los Angeles, San Jose State, and San Francisco State University.

In any case, both Principal Keith Schmidt and Vandermolen agree that the technical education courses are valuable and must retain a strong presence at Acalanes. As Cusick put it, "Tech. ed. courses really combine all ability levels to teach logic, 3-dimentional envisioning, and common sense; all of which are skills that students of all abilities can use for a lifetime."

With McMasters soon to retire, the loss of a Graphic arts teacher, and the apparent lack of qualified teachers, one might say that the technical education department is at a crossroads. However, the administration does seem to care and the people in the district office give off the impression that they are aware of the problem. In the end, however, it all boils down to one thing. As Vandermolen said, "The bottom line is what's right for the students."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Technical Education equipment sits idly while many students struggle to enroll in overcrowded courses.

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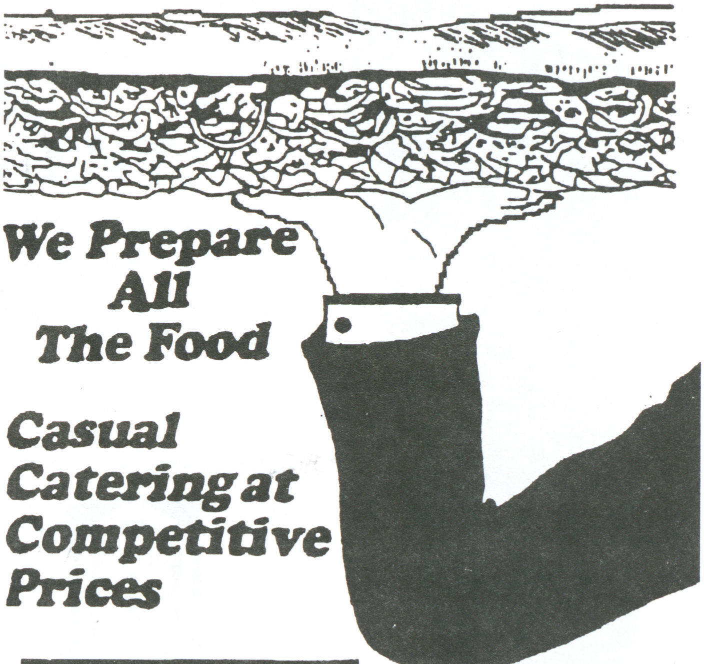

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New Administrators at Acalanes. pg.14

PART-TIME JOBS

Jobs Wage Battle on Student Health

By Andria Flakoll
Feature Editor

The Jamba Juice in Walnut Creek is packed with people, all eager for their power-packed energizers in a variety of fun-filled flavors. Behind the counter, employee and AHS senior Amy Schroll works madly at hurling out frozen bananas, strawberries, pineapples, and the occasional mango. In seconds, the store is filled with the sound of blenders whirling the concoctions together.

Dealing with the pressure of constant homework and extracurricular activities, the life of a high school student is anything but relaxing. For years it has been commonplace to add yet another element of stress to a high schooler's life: after-school jobs.

These seemingly harmless part-time jobs have been accepted and encouraged by society, research now shows that they may have more negative effects than benefits.

For Schroll, having a job gives her a sense of pride. "My parents give me money, but I work because it feels better to use my own money rather than asking my parents."

Schroll held two jobs during her junior year, one at the Lafayette Tennis Club and the other as a hostess at Black Angus. With these two jobs, she worked more than 20 hours a week, which caused her grades to drop significantly.

Some students work to gain experience and knowledge. When junior Marisa Forte stopped her usual routine of dancing 20-25 hours per week, she started working at Nor Ski for 15 hours each week. Forte loves the job even though she still says she does not have time for all her homework.

Other students, like senior Danielle Copene who works at her family's restaurant 20 to 25 hours per week, are forced to pay for expenses like car insurance. "My job is really ironic. I work to make money to use my car so I can hang out with friends, but I never can because I'm always working."

Junior Melissa Barker works 15 hours a week for what she says is the ideal job. Barker gets paid $7.50 an hour to baby-sit two girls after school each day. "I pick the girls up from school, and while they do their homework, I do mine."

Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini

Junior Marisa Forte prepares merchandise at NorSki in Lafayette.

The majority of Acalanes students hold some sort of part-time job, contending with the stress and strains of "school work, activities, and a job," said Head Counselor Robert Gangi. "It's overwhelming and sometimes puts students in a situation where they are just physically exhausted, or they never feel that they're caught up."

The National Research Council released a report stating that teenagers working 15-20 hours a week have a greater likelihood of drug and alcohol abuse, smoking, delinquency, and a lack of academic achievement.

"Young people will come in and they will tell me how stressed they are. They feel that that's (drugs and alcohol) a way of coping," said Gangi.

However, Dr. Mike Riera, Dean of Students at Marin Academy in San Rafael and author of *Teenagers and Surviving High School* sees many positive aspects of a part-time job. In an article for the *Parent Teen* newsletter, he said, "For some teenagers, work is a primary source of identity during the confusion of adolescence, and for all teenagers work is a source of self-esteem," said Riera.

Gangi thinks that because Acalanes students live in a wealthy area, they feel they have to have a job to earn the money needed to buy the expensive merchandise they see their friends buying.

Work experience also appeals to students because of its impact on college applications. "When I'm writing a letter of recommendation and I'm aware that the student has worked, I'll always acknowledge that," said Gangi, "so that the admissions office has a perception that maybe this student doesn't have a four point (GPA) because they were doing this, that and working too."

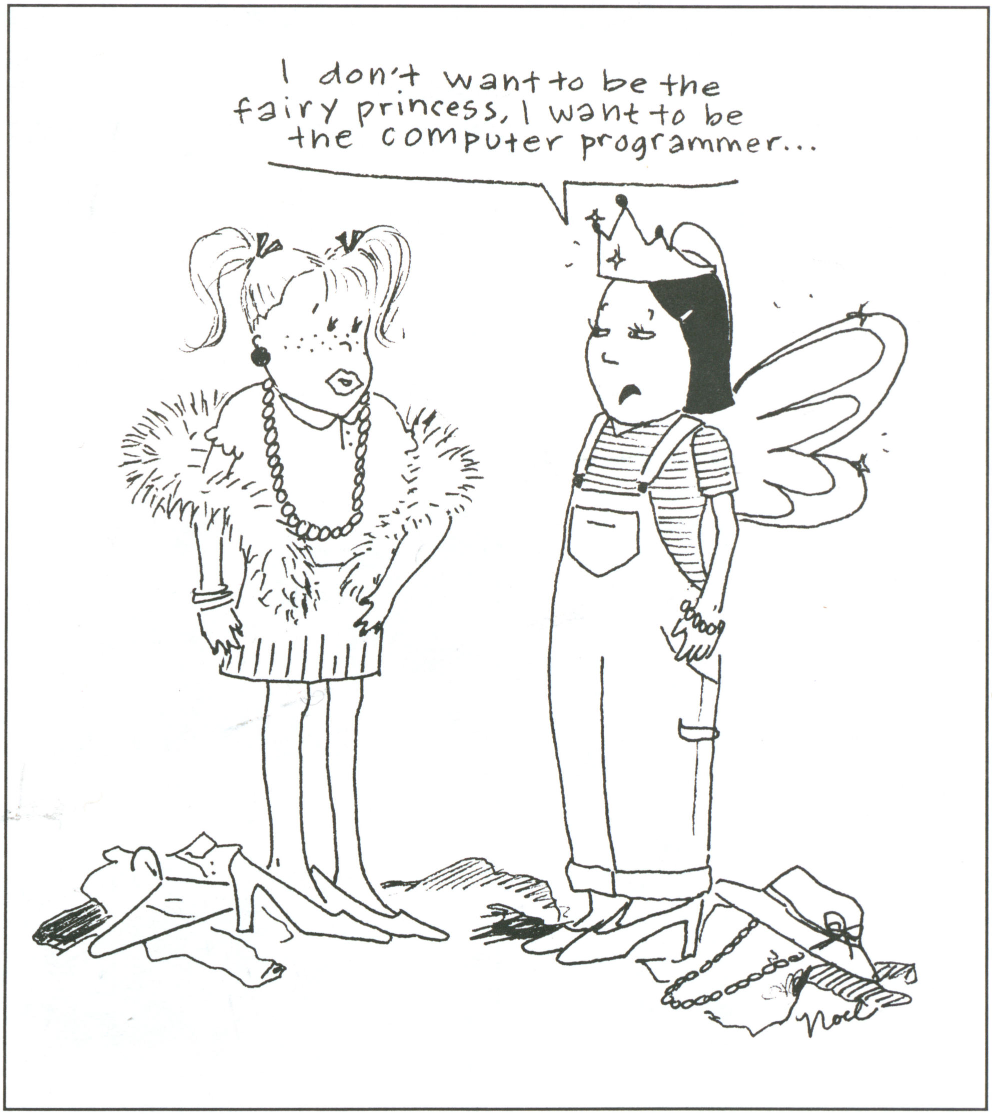
Joan Karr, Career Center Coordinator, sees part-time jobs as a positive influence on a student's life as long as sufficient time is spent on school work. "Some sort of experience in something other than school is important on all college applications whether it's work experience or volunteer experience. To work just to save money for your own social life, I think you can do that on less than 20 hours a week," she said.

"I'd much rather have students doing the best they can in school with the time they have allotted… than have them get a job that puts them under additional pressure to succeed," said Gangi.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Girls Network to Close Gender Gap

By Ann Bordetsky, Marimikel Charrier, and Jeni Wolowic
Staff Writers


I don't want to be the fairy princess, I want to be the computer programmer...
Noel

Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fahden

In a world where women are feverishly trying to bridge gender gaps in the work force, one of the fastest growing and most prosperous fields, computer science and technology, remains dominated by men.

According to a study conducted by the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), women comprise only 30% of computer scientists, even though women constitute over half of the population in the U.S. and 45% of the workforce. The study also concluded that only 10% of doctoral-level computer scientists are women.

"Not enough girls are going into the study of computer science, and that is what creates the gender gap, not a bias towards women," says Julie Lynch, an employee of Backyard, an organization providing girls with training and opportunities in computers.

One of the primary reasons there is a gender gap in computer science is because "girls don't understand what programming is all about and don't think they have enough information of what they are capable of doing or what they can do as a career in computer sciences," said Lynch.

ACM's Committee on the Status of Women in Computer Science believes the lack of women in the field is due to difficulties encountered by women in becoming computer scientists. According to the study, "women in computer science in U.S. universities terminate their training earlier than men do."

According to ACM, in the computer science and engineering departments of the 158 Ph.D.-granting institutions, only 6.5% of faculty members are women, while a third of the institutions have no female faculty members in those departments at all, showing a significant drop-off in female interest in computer science. ACM labeled the trend "pipeline shrinkage." As women progress along the academic pipeline, their percentages decrease.

The study, however, focused on colleges and the workforce, not high schools. At first glance, Acalanes seems to maintain the gender gap due to the fact that the Acalanes web page is created by a man and the Blueprint Computer Editor is male. Acalanes computer teacher, Paul Bernard, said he has not found a large gender gap in the computer classes at Acalanes in terms of enrollment or skill and both computer editors for the AKLAN are females. "It's pretty much 50/50," said Bernard. Enrollment figures of computer classes at Acalanes show no significant drop off between girls and guys, except in Computer Assisted Drafting (CAD). In recent years, CAD classes consisting of 19 to 22 students, included only three to four girls. CAD is a more advanced computer class which could conceivably be the reason for the gap.

ACM believes the gender gap in computer science originates during childhood, when kids are first exposed to computers through games. According to ACM, software programs reflect gender biases. Most computer games are based on war, battles, crimes, destruction, and sports, therefore targeting boys. It's true that software companies target girls too, but such games as Barbie are more likely to get girls interested in clothes and makeup instead of computers.

Several Acalanes students agree that their interest in computers developed through playing games. Senior Mike Pinkel offered his explanation for the gender gap. "I think there is a gender gap because girls are less interested in the violent, bloody, death replete games that end up teaching guys everything they could ever want to know about computers," said Pinkel.

Creator of the school web page, senior Jeff Yuen, and senior Chris Blazik, who plans to pursue computer science in college, both said their interest in computers was peaked by computer games. Computer Editor of AKLAN, senior Suzanne Chan, agreed that a gender gap exists but attributed it to the simple differences between the genders, saying "girls are just interested in different things."

ACM's study concluded that there are several other challenges facing women in computer science, namely difficulties with self-esteem, lack of mentoring and role models, gender discrimination, and problems with balancing career and family.

Betty Levitin, an employee of Expand Your Horizons (EYH), a company that offering girls one-day seminars involving math, science and computers, also believes the lack of female participation is due to the lack of female peers, which could act as role models, at the university level. Levitin finds that girls participating in EYH "are impressed by the women they meet and therefore are more encouraged to continue in the math and science field."

Considering only a small percentage of computer science faculty is women, ACM believes "women lose evidence that a career in the field is not only possible but also a normal option for women." This especially applies to girls at the high school level, according to ACM. "Without role models...girls may end their mathematics and science training prematurely."

However, Acalanes, like many other schools, does not offer computer science courses. Most computer classes are devoted to word processing skills. This may be a reason why enrollment in computer courses at Acalanes dropped by 51% in the last three years.

The lack of resources at high schools could be an explanation for the popularity of programs such as Backyard and EYH, which aim to sustain girls' interest in math, science, and computers.

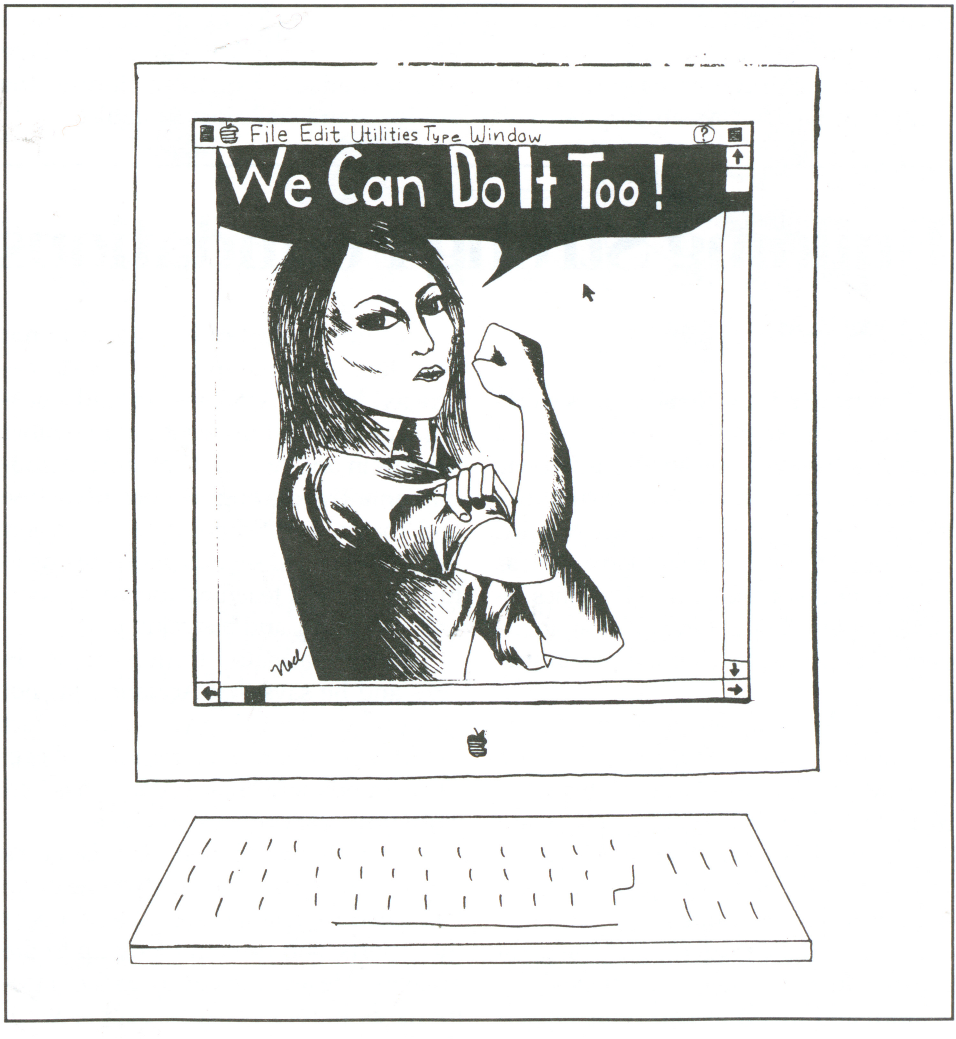
EYH, for example, was started by women concerned with the reduced number of female participants in the math and science fields as well as the lack of peers or role models for those who were. The goal of EYH is not only to sustain girls' interests but also to open up opportunities. Girls who take part in EYH, "didn't know they could do these things but now they know they can," said Levitin in reference to computer skills providing girls with confidence to pursue computer science.

Another program dedicated to the cause is the American Association of University Women (AAUW). According to Chris McCoven of the AAUW, the program rates various computer courses at high schools. AAUW then helps the schools hold computer fairs, while also helping teachers encourage girls to become computer literate.

Carol Barts, CEO of the company Autodesk, which makes computer assisted drafting programs, developed Autodesk Design Your Future. The program involves internships for six girls. Participants create a web page, develop basic skills such as over-the-phone communication skills, web design, and how to meet people in the industry. Annually, Autodesk invites 70 girls to participate in a free workshop to learn computer capabilities. The workshop includes a visit from a Disney engineer who designs rides at Disney parks. The girls then create their own amusement rides.

Megan K., and intern of Autodesk, said the program is very helpful. "My participation in the program," said Megan K., "influenced what I want to do and since I'm a senior, I definitely want to continue in this field in college."

At Acalanes, 67 people were asked if they planned to pursue computer science in college. Only 15% said yes and only three percent were female.


File Edit Utilities Type Window
We Can Do It Too!
Noel

Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fahden

NEW ADMINISTRATORS

Scene Change for Bruce

By Damon Diederich
Staff Writer

For Luanne Bruce, a veteran of the Acalanes High School District, working in new places isn't unusual. However, the frequent change of her surroundings have afforded the chance to reach out in different ways, most currently as Assistant Principal. These opportunities make all the moving worthwhile, in her opinion.

Born in southern Oregon, she moved to the Bay Area at the age of nine when her father got a job as a teacher in the Mt. Diablo School District. While she was convinced for much of her youth that she didn't want to follow in her father's footsteps and become an educator, she decided one year into her college education that she wanted to be a drama teacher.

Bruce started her career in the Acalanes District as an English and drama teacher at Miramonte in 1980. "I did enjoy teaching drama very much, and I think I had a pretty close relationship with students," she said. She was revered by students at Miramonte for being friendly, fair, and caring.

Then, in 1994 she was transferred to Las Lomas High and was offered the position of administrator, which she took. She began her job in July of that year and adapted well. She was a little sad, however, to leave her old job and her role as administrator brought new challenges. It is the "perception of some people (that) you're suddenly the enemy," she said.

After four years at Las Lomas, Bruce moved to Acalanes becoming the first woman administrator at this school in eight years. She enjoys her new job here and has adapted quickly, finding the students and staff very amiable.

Blueprint Photo/Thomas Kuo

Assitant Principal Luanne Bruce brings much experience to the campus.

Bruce told Blueprint that she doesn't really distinguish between being an administrator and being a mom because she finds it possible to regard students as adults and treat them as such. She says that her children don't always like the fact that she works in education because they think she knows too much about school.

Building Strong Foundations

By Ryan Rein
Staff Writer

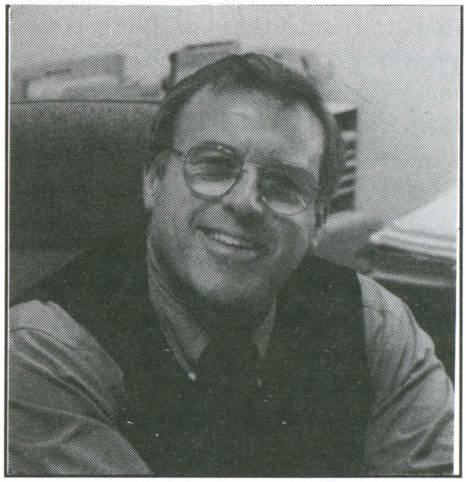
Assistant Principal Ron Dygert is working hard to make the high school years of Acalanes students as memorable as his own.

Along with teaching Architectural Design and ROTP CAD (Computer Assisted Drafting), Dygert is doing double duty as an administrator this year. His duties include supervision at lunch and at sports games, as well as helping the administrative team.

Dygert loves architecture, and during his college years at San Jose State and Saint Mary's College he spent his summers designing and building homes and cabins in the Sierras. During his junior year in college, he contemplated becoming a teacher. "I wanted to give something back to the students and the great teachers that I had here at Acalanes."

Born and raised in Lafayette, Dygert is a former student of Acalanes and has been teaching here for three years. Before teaching at Acalanes, he held teaching and administrative jobs at two other schools in and near the bay area including Santa Theresa High School in San Jose and Toaky High School in Lodi. Dygert has also coached several sports teams in his 16 years of teaching including football, wrestling, and badminton.

Dygert graduated from Acalanes in 1977 and he says that Acalanes has not changed very much except for the fact that it is now harder to get into college. "The foundations that Acalanes has had since fifty years ago are still here."



Blueprint Photo/Thomas Kuo

Ron Dygert does double duty as a teacher and Assitant Principal.

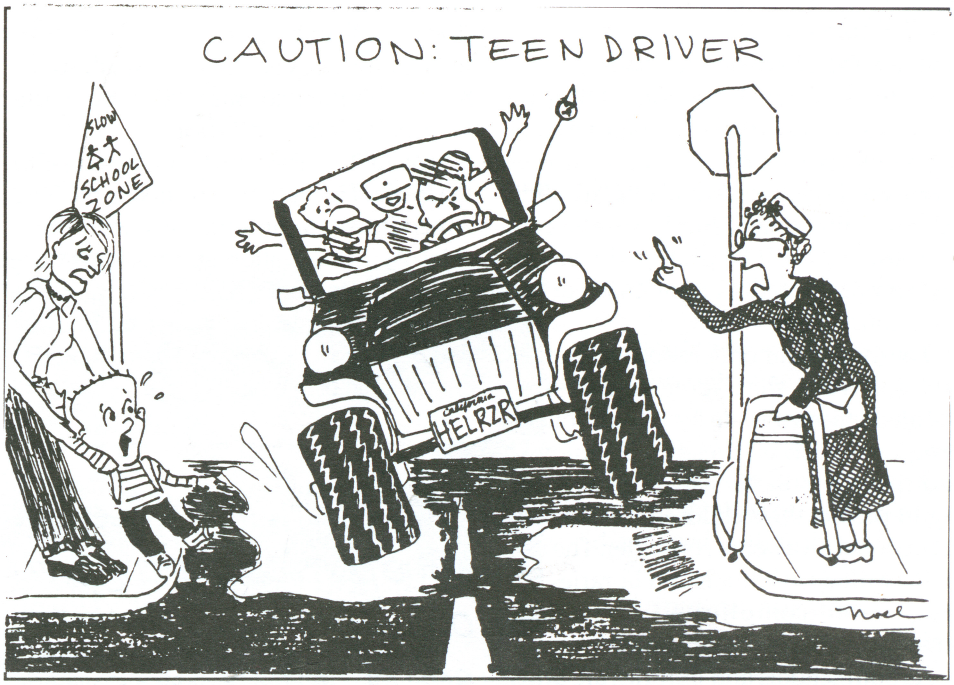
During his childhood, Ron Dygert's heroes were sports stars such as the Baseball great Reggie Jackson. Dygert was into sports, and he could look up to the athletes. He also looked up to the astronauts as heroes because people were landing on the moon for the first time in history.

Dygert feels that teachers are crucial influences in the lives of all young people. He says he is fortunate to be a member of such an important profession. "It's just a tremendous job. It's good to know that you're doing something worthwhile."

TEEN DRIVING

Driving Teens Steer Off-Course

By Tim Shieh
Staff Writer



Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fahden

Getting one's driver's permit is a rite of passage for most teenagers. It is the stepping stone towards the ultimate document in teenage coolness: the driver's license.

But are you ready to take control of 1000+ pounds of hurtling steel? Or is it true that California did mankind a favor by instituting graduated licensing? Driving requires a lot of responsibility...if you want to avoid accidents.

An Acalanes student who wished to remain anonymous admitted to racing his car with his friends along Mt. Diablo Blvd. "Me and a couple of my friends would meet down by one of (our) houses and we'd all race in our cars to go (somewhere)," said the student.

Nevertheless, the student claimed that he has never gotten into an accident because he usually races late at night. "I fishtailed once when one of my friends cut me off, but nothing bad happened," said the student.

Officer Kroeger of the California Highway Patrol mentioned, however, that driving "at an unsafe speed is still the number one cause of collisions in (all age groups)," not just teens.

Ironically, with recent attention focused on drug and alcohol use among teenagers in the area, there is not a high percentage of DUI arrests which deal with teenagers. "Most of our drunk driving arrests (in Lafayette) are mainly adults, not kids," said Officer Paul Beard of the Lafayette police. The DUI arrests from the "keggers" in Lafayette still don't make up "a high percentage of the Lafayette police's arrests," he said.

An anonymous Acalanes student said that most of the teenagers nominate a designated driver for their parties. This is one of the reasons why many teens are not caught driving drunk. The student said that he did get behind the wheel once when he was mildly drunk but stayed on backroads and drove very slowly. He said that if it weren't for certain extenuating circumstances that night, he would never have left the party.

Nonetheless, drunk driving is a serious killer of teens in California. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), among teenage drivers (16-19 years old), 28 percent of fatally injured male drivers and 13 percent of fatally injured female drivers in 1997 had blood alcohol concentrations at or above 0.01 percent.

About two out of every three teenagers killed in motor vehicle crashes in 1997 were males. According to the California Highway Patrol's 1997 Annual Report of Fatal and Injury Motor Vehicle Traffic Collisions, in every age group, Driving Under the Influence (DUI) death predominately involved males. This is one of the reasons that teenage males have to pay higher insurance premiums than teenage females.

A junior who did not wished to be identified said that when he was pulling out of his friend's driveway to go to the Homecoming parade, his friend scraped the side of his car with a van. It was only a minor, careless mistake, but it cost a pretty penny to fix. Financial woes, the result of bad accidents, seemed to be a common lament of teenage drivers who aren't completely cautious.

Teens aren't always on the far side of the law in their run-ins with police. When junior Josh Lang went to Walnut Creek to get a new Social Security card, he was rear-ended. "I was on Civic and Broadway and there was a yellow light, so I slowed down. It turned red and an off-duty, I think, Antioch police officer was going over the speed limit in his big Chevy Tahoe one-ton. He slammed on the brakes and crashed into the back of my car," said Lang. It ended up costing about $3,000 in damage to Lang's car.

Licenses provide drivers with more freedom for fun opportunities like going on a road trip with your buddies. That is exactly what Acalanes seniors Aaron Grafton, Mike Pinkel, and a couple other friends did this past summer. "We took a trip up to Lassen National Park this summer," said Grafton. Not only did they have fun camping, the group of friends came back with an interesting story about their car. "Right in the middle of Lassen, we were stuck with a car that couldn't get us anywhere," said Grafton. The thermostat got stuck and the campers had to stay overnight in the tiny town of Chester, California camped out next to a public restroom.

INTERNET DANGERS

Internet Blocking Strikes Controversy

By Sam Cunningham
Staff Writer

The second of a two-part series

With final work on connecting all Acalanes classrooms to the Internet coming to its conclusion, as well as a four hundred thousand dollar Digital High School grant coming in, the question of how students will be protected from inappropriate material on the Internet has come into view.

The most common solution is commercial software that screens out sites deemed inappropriate by its controllers. Programs such as these have enjoyed enormous popularity with parents wishing to protect their children from harmful material on a home computer. The use of these filters in schools and libraries is a much more complicated issue than screening off sites in the home.

As both schools and libraries are arms of the Federal Government, they are required by law to obey the Constitution and more specifically, the First Amendment and its guarantee of free speech. Formidable opposition has been fronted where libraries have tried to screen their public terminals. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) as well as the California First Amendment Coalition have been the front runners in these first-of-a-kind court cases.

Recently in Loudon County, Virginia's public libraries attempted to use computer blocking on their Internet to filter out thousands of sites. The policy, designed to protect minors from harmful material, was challenged by the ACLU. U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema decided that the decision to block harmful sites from minors violates constitutional rights of free speech and does not serve a "compelling government interest".

Locally, a 13 year-old in Livermore used public library terminals to download pornographic images during the summer. A lawsuit asking the city to limit access to certain Internet websites was dismissed. Librarians and city attorneys were reluctant to police children's Internet use. "We feel very strongly that we don't want to be put in the position of telling anyone what they can read, see or hear," commented Susan Gallinger, the Livermore library director.

The ACLU agrees that limiting access to the Internet is a serious violation of the First Amendment. In an interview with Blueprint, ACLU staff attorney Ann Brick commented on student's rights concerning the Internet, saying that they have a Constitutional right to look at controversial material online, even on a school computer.

> *"We don't want to be put in the position of telling anyone what they can read, see or hear." --Susan Gallinger*

But the exact definition of what controversial material is remains debatable. No doubt political ideologies are covered by the First Amendment, but the line is not so clear when it comes to unlawful action, such as bomb-building.

"The Supreme Court has held that a person can agitate unlawful activity as long as that advocacy isn't intended to incite, or actually does incite unlawful activity," said Brick. This could mean that a student could legally research bomb-building on a school computer as long as that person doesn't actually intend to build a bomb.

On a more basic level, this information questions the Constitutional legitimacy of the "Acalanes Union High School District Electronic Information/Telecommunications Acceptable Use Contract", which states that no student may voluntarily access any information that may "indicate or suggest pornography, unethical or illegal solicitation, racism, sexism, and/or inappropriate language".

Acalanes Principal Keith Schmidt believes that the document is simply a statement of the school's policy regarding Internet use and that by signing the document, the student is simply agreeing to adhere to that policy.

Brick said, on the other hand, that students retain their First Amendment rights while in school, including freedom of expression and the right to receive information. She also believed that if censoring the material stated in the User Contract was Constitutionally legal than the proper thing for the school to do would be to unilaterally create a rule banning websites with controversial material.

"The school may be asking students to sign away their Constitutional rights in the form of the contract." This controversy raises many questions about the continued use of the Internet at Acalanes.

The State Department of Education has no official policy regarding the use of blockers, rather they prefer to allow individual districts to choose their own methods, which they claim will better reflect the individual standards of each community. "What one community feels is not necessarily what another community feels, so the state must be careful," said Brian Usland for the California State Department of Education. Other local schools employ methods similar to Acalanes, including non-public ones.

Ernie Hollie, Technology Coordinator for St. Perpetua's Catholic school in Lafayette said that he does not filter out inappropriate sites. Hollie said that the computers with Internet capability are supervised by either teachers or parents at all times, so the information students access will not stray from their assignments. In addition to this, there is no Internet in the library.

While a general rejection of school-employed filtering seems to be the standard as of yet, further pressure from pro-screening forces may produce another result in public libraries. The Lafayette Library has had no experience with filters, but that may change soon if more contraband is accessed from public terminals. Three librarians declined to comment on the subject.

DIABETES

A Spoonful of Sugar...

By Heather Klurfeld
Staff Writer

The long cold needle extends into the soft flesh. The liquid penetrates deep into the skin and begins to circulate throughout the body. The craving is satisfied, and the effects are soon felt. Everything is in balance.

This is the normal routine of most people with diabetes. Currently in the United States there are approximately one hundred thousand people with diabetes, many of them under the age of thirty.

Veteran diabetic junior Evan Pricco says that diabetes "doesn't really change anything. It's just another part of my life." It does not interrupt his daily routine, except for the two shots he takes— once in the morning and once in the evening, and he continues to live like most other teenagers, despite popular belief towards diabetics. He moderates his diet, continues to play sports, and manages to do all his homework. On the weekends, he is still able to go out. The diabetes does not serve as any type of a weight.

"Having Diabetes has definitely made me more responsible. It's given me a lot of confidence." Evan says that he tries to think ahead. For instance, when he golfs he always brings a spare snack "just in case because on the golf course you're so far away from everything."

Most people believe that diabetes is caused by eating too much sugar, or that diabetics cannot eat sugar. "Actually, I have a specified diet that includes a certain amount of carbohydrates, which are basically sugars, in my daily regiment," said freshmen Matt Eaton. Both Pricco and Eaton agree that people are under the misconception that they cannot eat sugar. "My friends will see me drinking a regular soda and say, 'Evan, are you sure you should be drinking that?' I tell them that it's all right— if I want a soda every once in a while, then I can have a soda. But it's nice to know that they're looking out for me," said Pricco.

Matt Eaton is a new diabetic. After having the diagnosis for only a few months, he is slowly getting the routine down. "At first I was really upset... I kept asking 'Why did I get this? Why me?'" Eaton says that it was mentally challenging at first, but it's an obstacle he has overcome with flying colors. "I'm on the best shape I've ever been because I have to watch my diet." Matt just qualified for the Junior Nationals in skiing.

Blueprint Photo/Robyn Jones

Freshman Matt Eaton gives himself an injection of insulin. Eaton, a diabetic, must give himself these shots three times a day and monitor his bloodsugar level.

Eaton believes the most common misconceptions of diabetes are caused by a lack of education on the subject. "Most people are uneducated on it. I was uneducated until I got diagnosed." The majority of students at Acalanes do not know a substantial amount of knowledge about diabetes.

Diabetes is defined as high blood sugar. There are two distinct forms of diabetes— Type II is generally a late-onset or non-insulin-dependent type. The body is able to manufacture insulin, unlike Type I, but does not accept it. Type I is common in younger people and is quite easy to control through insulin shots. It is an autoimmune disease, usually triggered by a viral infection, Acalanes Nurse Dianna Nehls said. Currently, five students at Acalanes are diagnosed with diabetes.

"Anyone with diabetes can... lead a normal, active life; they just have to be careful about what they eat," said Nehls.

Typical symptoms of people with diabetes, before they have been diagnosed, are a drastic amount of weight loss, constant thirst, a chronic need to use the restroom, and sometimes light-headedness. If the symptoms persist, most people go to the doctor to have their blood sugar tested. If the analysis is abnormal, the person may begin insulin treatments to maintain a stable bloodsugar level, said diabetic specialist Dr. Fred Wyle.

Diabetes is currently a plague throughout the United States. If not properly maintained, it can result in loss of limbs, loss of eyesight, nerve and kidney problems, or possibly death. But, if the disease remains under control, it can be only a slight inconvenience approximately three times a day — the average number of times a person with diabetes takes insulin shots, said Wyle.

As for the Acalanes students with diabetes, they reiterate that they should not be treated any differently. "If I touch you you're not going to get it. I'm still normal," Pricco said.

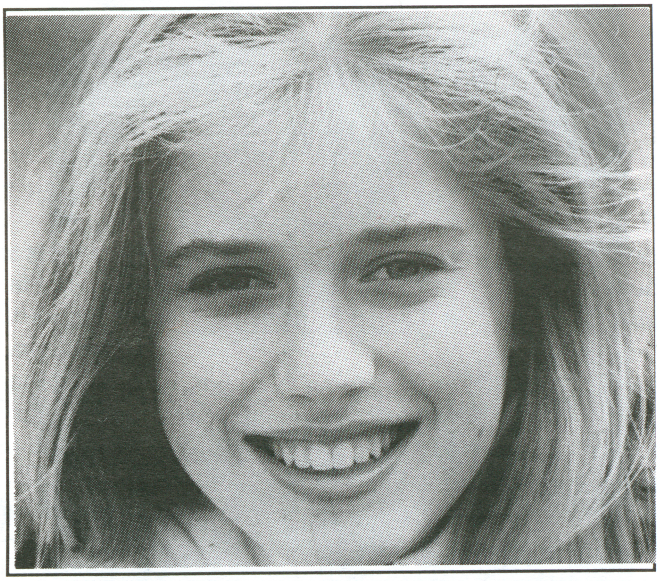
ORGAN DONATION

One Girl's Death Gives Life to Others

By Teressa Wickham
Staff Writer

In what took seconds, but probably felt like a lifetime, the car hit a tree and came to a stop. It was the end of one life, but a new start for many others.

Four kids were in the car. The driver, Julia Burke, was pronounced dead at the hospital three days later. Two others suffered minor injuries and one walked away physically unharmed. Julia, 16 years-old and an only child, had grown up in Lafayette and attended local schools until high school. She was a junior at College Preparatory School in Oakland.



Courtesy Photo

At the hospital, the Burkes asked whether Julia's organs were fit for donation. Julia had discussed this with them when she received her driver's license. Four people are alive due to her organs, and many others received bone graphs and tissues.

"She used to tell us, 'It's a no brainer. Why would someone not give that gift?'" said her father, Jerry Burke.

Bill and Kathy Olmo of Pleasanton have a daughter, Kelly, who did not receive Julia's organs, but received many liver transplants from other donors throughout her early life. Today, Kelly is 11 and is enjoying a healthy life, thanks to people who decided to share their life.

"We were fortunate enough to have an opportunity to continue Kelly's life. We're even more fortunate in retrospect that she's doing so well after nine years," said Bill Olmo.

"You're forever in debt, and you stop and say thank you, but you get busy and don't say it as much as you should. You know that anything can happen any day, and you value that you were given the opportunity. It just helps to celebrate life," said Olmo.

Organ donation is a difficult subject that most people don't want to think about. However, every 18 minutes a new name is added to the waiting list for an organ, and eight to ten people die each day while waiting for an organ, according to the San Francisco Transplant Donor Network (SFTDN). There is currently a waiting list of 50,000 people for organs. If everyone who died was a donor, that figure would be close to zero.

Organ donation is a daily miracle. Each year 600,000 Americans receive tissue transplants, while 20,000 Americans receive organ transplants. While we occasionally hear of new and exciting surgeries, we seldom equate the success with someone's willingness to give at a time of major catastrophe to a loved one.

"There are many people dying each day while they sit and wait for an organ. If people would be willing to donate their loved ones' organs, they might feel a little bit of comfort in their time of extreme pain. Donation is a beautiful thing. It gives life to another," said SFTDN's Manager of Public Relations and Publicity Von Roebuck.

"You stop to count your blessings. Life seems more precious, and your perspectives are different just a little bit afterward. You end up believing that there's a tomorrow because there was a yesterday. In some respects, you try to forget that, but you live in fear that anything could happen. You forget sometimes because [Kelly] is so healthy, but it comes back every time she gets a fever," said Olmo.

One of the fictions surrounding organ donations is that many people believe that if a doctor knows that you are a possible donor, they will stop treatment just to get your organs.

"Patient families come into the hospital and fear that the doctors trying to save their loved one will stop care the second we find out about their being a possible donor. We're doctors, our job is to help people, not take their life away because someone else needs their heart. The only way their organs are removed is if we can find no other way to save that person's life, only if we are 100 percent positive that they will not make it. That's when the donor team comes in," said Dr. Patricia Callagan from Holy Cross Hospital in Maryland.

The next of kin has to make the decision after someone dies, so if you are interested in organ donation, talk with your family. Also putting the "donor dot" on your driver's license and keeping a signed donor card with it helps others to know of your intentions. If you would like to get a donor card or more information on the subject, you can call the DMV closest to you, or you can call the SFTDN.

"It gave us a little comfort in our time of pain, but it's what Julia wanted, and it was like we were fulfilling her last wish," said Julia's mother, Marilyn Burke.

What happened to Julia was a nightmare, the snuffing of a bright and beautiful life when it was just getting started. Tragically, she left behind her family and friends who have suffered immensely from her passing. For those affected by her death, a little comfort can be wrought from knowing that her death did something "good" for four other people who otherwise might not be alive today. Although that factor does not make it any easier for her parents or her friends to accept her death, it does make one stop to think. We all hope and expect to "live forever," especially at 16. A little thought, however, can make it so that even if the worst happens, a part of you can do just that.

ACALANES BLUEPRINT
OPINION

INSIDE . . . . . .

Jerry!
rry!
rry!

Chat With The Chuckster. pg.21

AUTOMATED LIFESTYLES

Mobile World Leaves Too Many Immobile

New Technologies Create a Sedentary Population

By Rand Dadasovich
Co-Editor-in-Chief

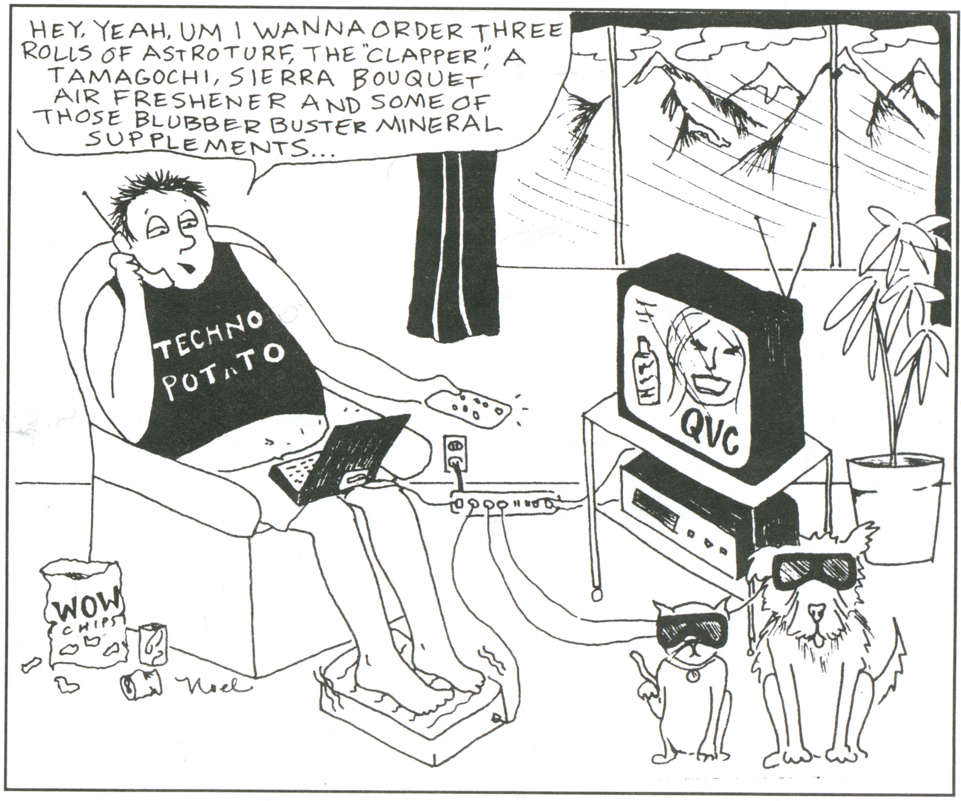
As many Americans were out fighting crowds at the local mall this holiday season, a growing number of people were crowding the web in search of the perfect gift in what is quickly becoming a dangerous new trend for online users: virtual shopping.

Shopping carts are slowly being replaced by mousepads and consumers are looking to the internet for huge discounts and convenience. But the trend has hidden dangers. The current market caters toward the immobile. From laptops and cellphones to home PC's, our technology makes us overly sedentary.

Barnes and Noble recently launched an online bookstore, competing against the highly successful Amazon.Com. So now instead of browsing the shelves, people are browsing the web in search of great literature.

Banks have also jumped on the internet bandwagon offering online transactions. And communication companies are even marketing the all in one pager/cell phone/internet tool. With this nifty gadget, you can dial up from practically anywhere. There's no need to walk to a payphone or go in search of a modem--it can all be done from the palm of your hand.

While this new technology has its merits, the dangers of relying so heavily on a few hundred cables and satellites is evident in the impending threat of the Y2K computer glitch. We'll all be left helpless when the year 2000 hits, forced to actually leave our houses and walk or drive to the stores.


HEY, YEAH, UM I WANNA ORDER THREE ROLLS OF ASTROTURF, THE "CLAPPER," A TAMAGOCHI, SIERRA BOUQUET AIR FRESHENER AND SOME OF THOSE BLUBBER BUSTER MINERAL SUPPLEMENTS...
TECHNO POTATO
WOW CHIPS
QVC
Noel

Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fahden

Every day, I hear of a new gadget or tool designed to make the lives of Americans more convenient. From a home office in your car to a car phone the size of a paperweight, miniature seems to equal advanced and is an any case marketable.

We're bombarded with images of emaciated supermodels, the latest diet trends, and scientific studies proclaiming the rising number of obese Americans. Yet the technology being marketed by zealous companies only encourages a diminution of physical activity.

Why go hike up Mt. Diablo when you can take a virtual tour online? The technological revolution has become an excuse for Americans to enjoy the outside world vicariously.

The internet is just one symptom of the technological influenza sweeping our nation and a sign that the bridge to the 21st century is slowly breaking away from the mainland. However, if even our most basic tasks continue to be automated in the name of convenience, Americans might lose the physical ability to cross that bridge when they come to it.

PRO/CON

UC Proposal to Replace Affirmative Action

Should UCs accept the top 4% of every high school's class?

By Nathalie de Leon
Staff Writer

The new 4% plan being considered by the UC Regents Board would counter the effects of Prop. 209 by ensuring the acceptance of the top 4% of every school in California.

The main differences in people of our era can be attributed to where they live. A person from south central L. A., regardless of race, usually is a very different student than a person from Lafayette.

As such, the 4% plan would ensure that a diverse group of California's population would be represented. It would take the top 4% of students from each high school and automatically accept them into the UC system. From there, they apply to the different universities. Since students are accepted from each region, there will be a very diverse group of students in the system.

Many students complain that it is unfair because some schools are academically harder than others, and competition is stiffer. These schools tend to be found in the wealthier areas of California. Some students can not attend these schools because their parents can not afford high-cost housing. Consequently, the state is experiencing a form of class discrimination--it provides the rich with better public education because of where they live.

Critics of the proposal say it will diminish UC standards by accepting people who are not qualified. But professors must keep their standards high regardless of class performance, so students will be forced to catch up more quickly.

In addition, most of the people that need state-subsidized education are the ones experiencing this discrimination. The UC schools are cheaper than most private colleges, and the state should reserve those spots for those at an economic disadvantage.

People with major financial problems lead hard lives. They have to hold down part-time jobs, deal with crime in their area, take care of siblings, and worry about a lot of things students shouldn't need to. When they can't study and get penalized for it, they usually end up in the same financial situation their whole lives, and then their kids go through it, and then their grandkids...It's a vicious cycle that goes against everything America stands for.

The proposal would give these people a chance to break free from their cycles, and finally live out what we have been taught since we were born--the Great American Dream.

Finally, this measure is not as drastic as many perceive. The top 4% are assured positions, but many of those students may decline the invitation, and the other empty slots will be up for grabs.

PRO

By Lexi Matsui
Staff Writer

Gray Davis supports the "4% plan," a college admissions proposition that will ensure the acceptance of the top 4% of each high school in the state into all UC's. This proposition would cause many more problems than it would fix. I think that if anyone is clearly more qualified and deserving of admission into the county's UC's, they should be admitted based on their own accomplishments and abilities.

Although this plan will in fact attract a student body that is well representative of all of California, it poses problems for schools like Acalanes, where the top 30% of seniors qualify for UC admission. It leaves 26% competing for spots that will be reserved for students who might be less qualified but are guaranteed acceptance because they may have gone to schools where normally only the top 2% are accepted into UC's. In this case, what do you do? Do the campuses lower their standards to allow these people in? What good does that do if we're lowering the standards of our UC's?

This is being proposed to compensate for affirmative action. Affirmative action has been abolished because of its assumption that people of the same nationality are from the same social backgrounds, which is often not the case. With this policy, under qualified students were being admitted into schools strictly based on race.

If affirmative action is out, then what will we use to have diverse UC campuses? The 4% plan assumes that people of the same race go to the same school. If this is so, then it will allow these people to excel, whereas they might never get the chance if they were up against people in rich, rural communities that are in the top .5% of the nation.

No one should have to compare herself to a percentage or a standing. I think that it was right to abolish affirmative action, but this is certainly not the way to replace it.

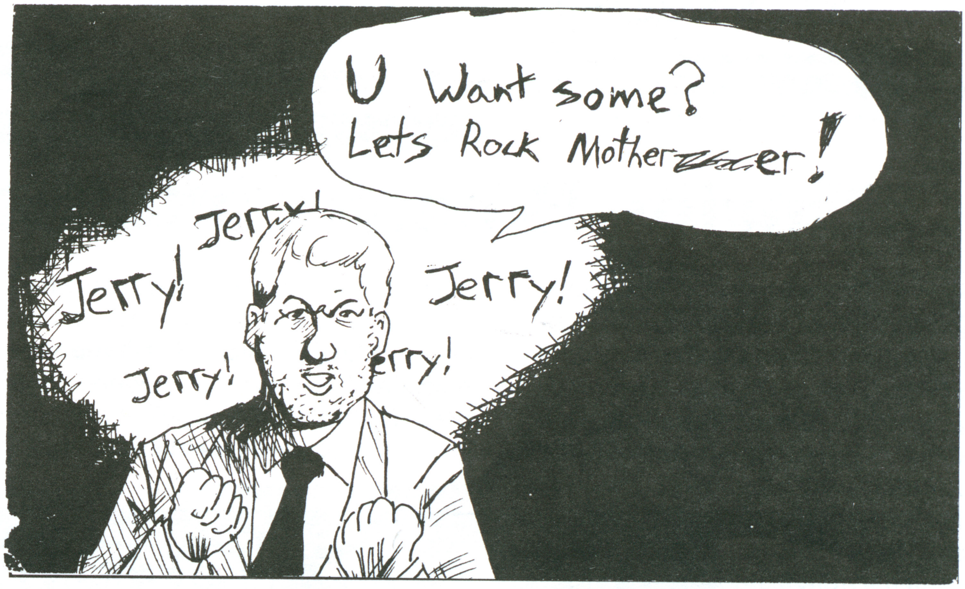
I don't think that the question of race or sex should even be asked on a UC application, let alone be a deciding factor in the acceptance decision. For that matter, neither should location. I believe that the earnest, ethical people who work hard for their education and meet and exceed the qualifications deserve to study at the Universities of California. Does a diverse student body really enrich the college experience? This is a matter that researchers should look into. I think everyone should strive to achieve the excellence expected at a UC. And those who do achieve it ought not to be bumped by those who attained less.

CON

CHAT WITH CHUCK

We Don't Care What Bill Did Last Summer

By Charlie Eaton
Co-Editor-In-Chief


U Want some?
Lets Rock Mother[redacted]er!
Jerry!
Jerry!
Jerry!
Jerry!
erry!

Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

"What's hard for me... I know this is so stupid but, Linda, I don't know why I have these feelings for him. Maybe I'm crazy, maybe I don't have these feelings... I don't know... I never expected to feel this way about him."

Take a guess where that quote came from.

The Real World? No. Party of Five? No. Dawson's Creek? Wrong again.

That heartfelt excerpt is from Ms. Monica Lewinsky herself who has been the focus our nation's media and politics for the last year or so. It's almost an insult that the powers that be are trying to capture our attention with this teenage gossip. Intellectually, we would have gained more by listening to two little girls squabble about a Jr. High relationship.

The media has shorted the American people by focusing on Lewinsky's affair with the president. Instead, they should concentrate on Tripp's deep reflections on the human psyche. In her recorded phone conversations with Lewinsky, Tripp says of Clinton, "He let you in and now he's afraid. He's afraid! Fear is the biggest motivator. Self preservation is everything."

An important thing to remember here is that all these people, Tripp, Lewinsky, and Clinton once worked together in the White House. White trash is running the country! Tripp is on target about one thing though. The White House is hell-bent on self preservation. And you and I, are paying the price with Clinton's foreign military excursions that are intended to divert our attention.

But to think that this soap opera has escalated to an impeachment trial should make us all laugh out loud. This isn't politics, it's a tabloid world that has sprung to life.

I keep expecting the Republican party, the independent counsel, and the news media to start publishing gossip columns. In a way I guess they already have.

It's tough to say, but I have more respect (however little) for Monica Lewinsky than most of the actors in this cheap melodrama. At least Monica admitted she did something wrong. In the tapes Monica concedes, "I did such a naughty thing, but I couldn't resist." When will Congress fess up to its naughty behavior?

There is a way to end this impeachment mess. One no holds barred episode of Jerry Springer. Springer could mediate while Newt Gingrich, Trent Lott, Kenneth Starr, Linda, Monica, and Bob Barr go head to head with Bill and Hillary.

Linda could open up by ripping on Paula Jones, "Even her entourage looks like something out of a K-Mart ad." And madness would follow from there.

Gingrich, Lott, Starr and the media moguls come out and would admit, "We did such a naughty thing, but we couldn't resist. Now spank us." And then Hillary would come out with a paddle and swat their fat little bums. I'm sure that Hillary has already taken batting practice on the President's.

Then Monica would close with one of her revelations about love, "The first time I ever looked into his eyes and was with him alone, I saw somebody totally different than I expected to see. And that's the person I fell in love with." And Bill would probably kill the moment, "So Monica, want to go file some papers in the oval office, if you know what I mean."

But that fantasy will never take place. Instead, we face the daily grind of a Congress working against the will of the American people. The American people have been deceived about more important things than sex. Yes, Clinton lied about sex. But who cares what he was doing with Monica last summer? The real crime here is that politicians and the media have distracted the American people from issues that matter with a veritable soap opera.

Certainly, Clinton should be impeached, but not for extramarital affairs or flimsy perjury charges. Clinton should be removed from office for abusing the powers of the President by bombing a vital pharmaceuticals plant in Sudan and fighting an undeclared war against Iraq, an effective but cowardly subplot to this bizarre chapter in what passes for American politics on the eve of the millennium.

ACALANES BLUEPRINT
ENTERTAINMENT

INSIDE . . . . . .

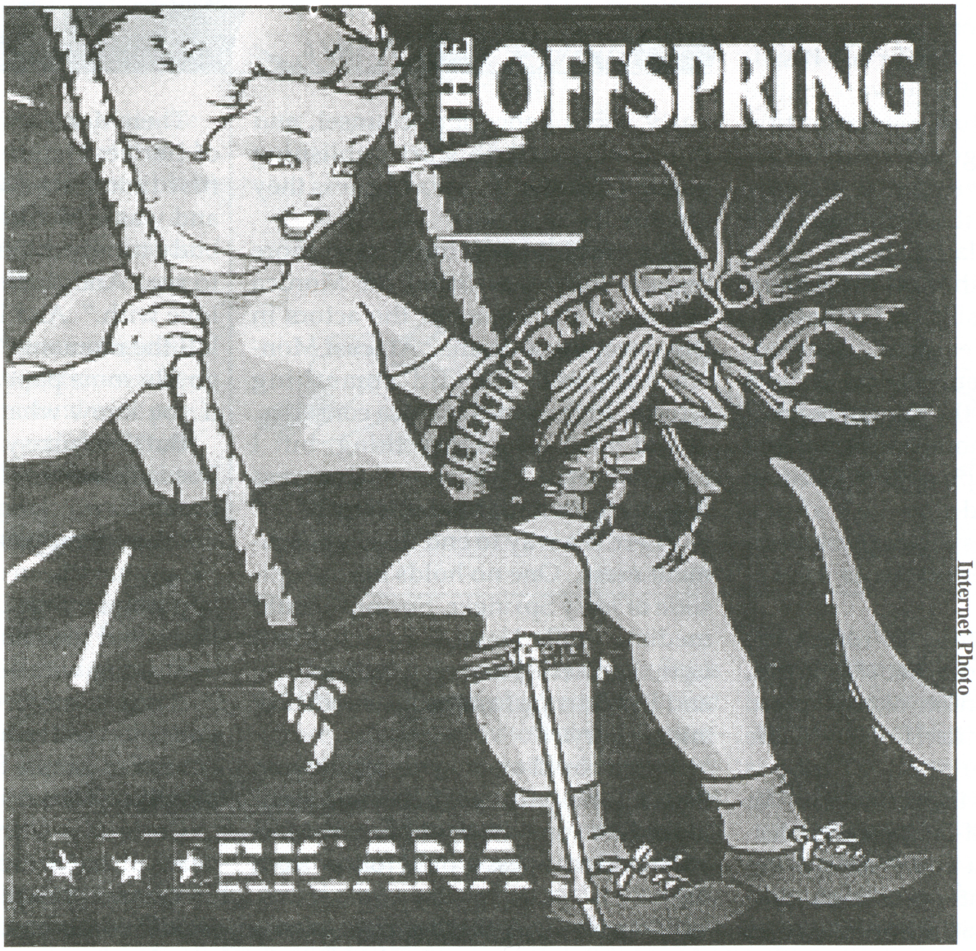
Valentine's Day Cartoons. pg.24

CD REVIEW

Offspring Bounces into Sellout Land

Jeff Price
Staff Writer

In most punk rock circles, the highest order of insult that one can heap upon a band is to call them sellouts. The Offspring prove why. In their latest CD, *Americana*, the bad boys sound more like hogs feeding from the trough of the teenage need for loud music and flashy idols.



Internet Photo

Certainly, the disk has several high points. The second single, "Get a Job", features an earnest attempt to move in a new direction with the addition of steel drums and a Caribbean reggae flavor. Or, it would be an earnest attempt, if it wasn't a thinly-disguised single-in-waiting. The other high point is that, on this disk, you know what you're getting- fast and loud, then faster and louder. The Offspring have never been subtle, and it remains comforting to know what will come out of your speakers when you play the album.

However, the few high points are quickly overshadowed by the disturbing realization that the album really has no soul to it, and instead sounds like pre-packaged schlock. The hype surrounding the music is even worse. The first single, "Pretty Fly (for a white guy)", tries to use their holier-than-thou attitude to mock the rap culture, but the video comes off looking more like a rap video than the rap videos that the band is trying to satirize. If the Offspring could muster even an ounce more genuineness, they might be able to make their point, but sadly they fall short.

Further proof that success has gone to the Offspring's head shows in their move from Epitaph records (the home of Bad Religion and Rancid, among others) to the mega-label Columbia records. With the prestige of landing a major album deal, the success must have gone to their head, either blocking their good sense or their talent. Perhaps that would justify the mediocre sounds (at best) of Americana.

My recommendation- unless you're a big fan of the Offspring, steer well clear of Americana. Everything that the Offspring does, another local band can do better. For noise, the local hardcore scene should provide enough of an escape to make you forget you've ever heard of the Offspring. For rhythm and melody, look to the local ska scene. For selling out? Well... the Offspring does that just fine. It's time we sent a message to the corporate controllers of Offspring and the pseudo-punk culture--we don't tolerate garbage in this town.

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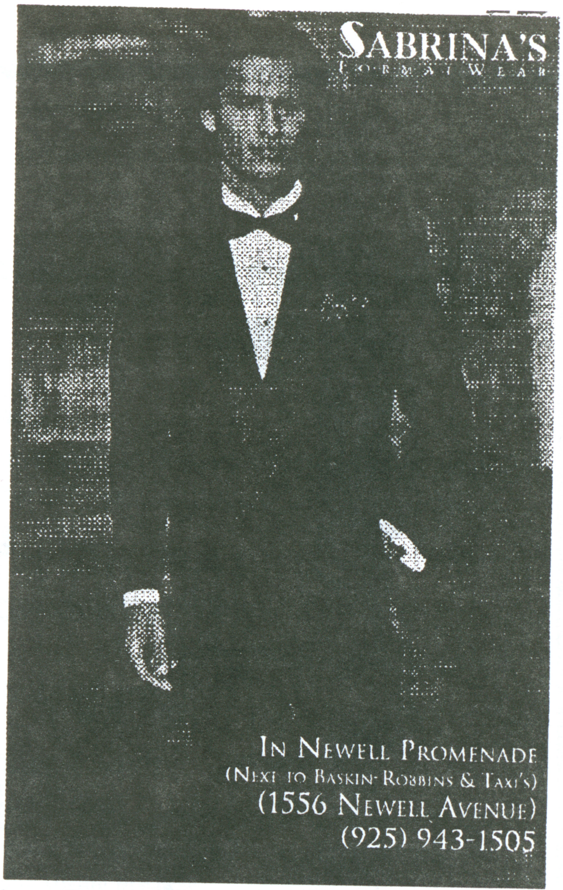

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MOVIE REVIEWS

Thin Red Line Gets the Green Light

By Thomas Wille
Staff Writer

The Thin Red Line

★★★ (Rated R)

The Thin Red Line is the second big film this year to deal with World War II after *Saving Private Ryan*. However, these two films are very different. While *Saving Private Ryan* serves to honor those who served in World War II and to create the most realistic battle scenes of all time, *The Thin Red Line* is a three hour journey into the soul of humanity.

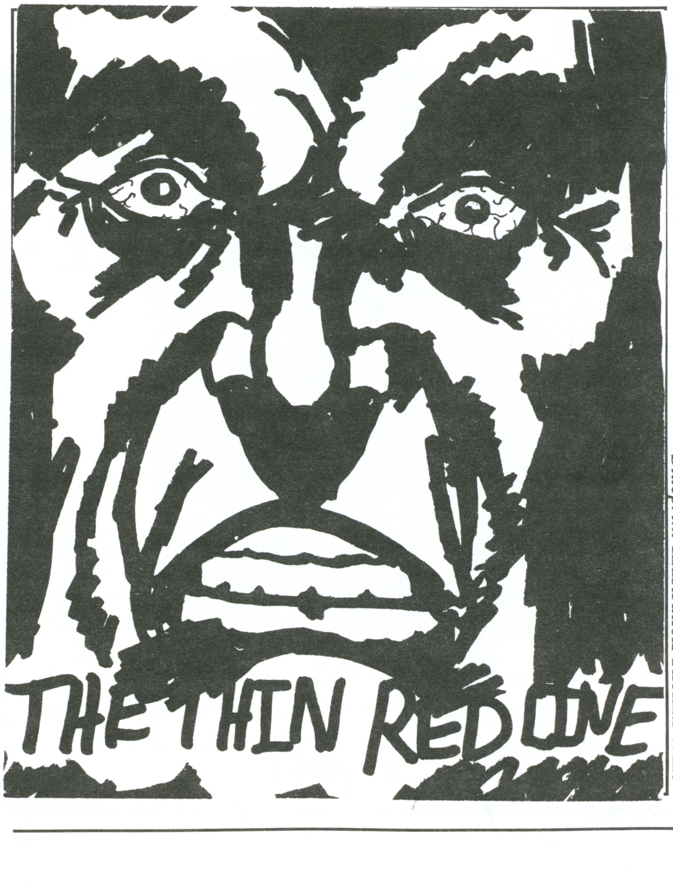
On the surface, *The Thin Red Line* is about the Battle of Guadalcanal, in which the United States achieved its first victory in the Pacific war at the cost of untold lives. World War II has nothing to do with the heart or purpose of this movie, which is a series of conflicting images of the beauty of nature and the horror of war, such as whipping green grass covering the bodies of the dead. *The Thin Red Line* has a lot more in common with Francis Ford Coppola's *Apocalypse Now* than *Saving Private Ryan.*

Unlike *Saving Private Ryan*, there is no main character in *The Thin Red Line*, but there are a plethora of overused celebrities. John Travolta, Woody Harrelson, and George Clooney all have useless bit parts, but because they are famous, they are distracting. All their roles would have been better filled by unknown actors.

The other acting is very respectable. Sean Penn is reserved and unexplored as the enigmatic Sergeant Walsh, who may be the perfect soldier. Elias Koteas is the honorable Captain Staros, the character easiest to identify with. Nick Nolte is a sure-footed, psychotic, war-loving general, and Jim Caviezel is solid as the Christ-like Private Witt.

In one opening segment, Private Witt has gone AWOL and is living with the island natives in a blissful communal life. This scene is perfect at displaying man's quest to live in harmony with nature as an escape from the unnatural man-made clash of war. In another powerful scene, US troops overrun the final Japanese position. It reflects the dual nature of humanity as various images blaze by the manic camera.

For better or worse, *The Thin Red Line* tries to do too much. Private Witt's voice over's are too overtly philosophic without any subtlety ("What is nature? What is this dark thing in all of us?"). But *The Thin Red Line* is valuable for its study of nature as conflict vs. nature as harmony.



Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

Shakespeare In Love

★★★ (Rated R)
Miramax

For me, *Shakespeare In Love* is one big joke, but it's a happy joke. It's an in joke for everyone who's read Romeo and Juliet, and yet it still stands as a massive tribute to William Shakespeare.

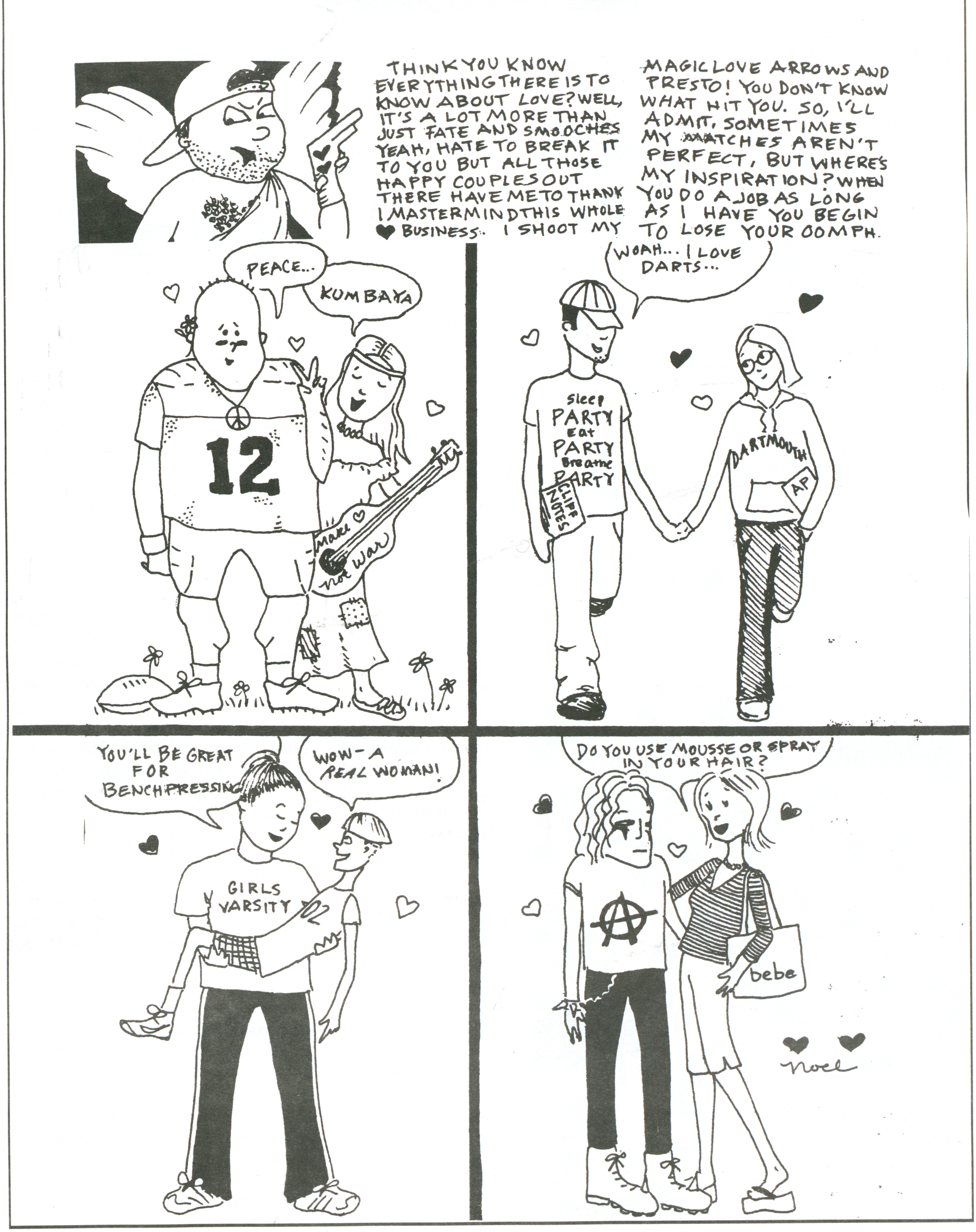
Shakespeare in Love takes place in the summer of 1593 during the reign of Elizabeth, during the week that Shakespeare wrote Romeo and Juliet. The screenwriters, Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard, write a humorous "what if?" script about the creation of Romeo and Juliet. Namely, "What if Shakespeare wrote Romeo and Juliet about what was happening to himself at the time?"

With that in mind they made up a story. Will Shakespeare is the up and coming writer for the Rose Theater, but he has every scribe's nemesis: writer's block. He's trying to compose a comedy titled "Romeo and Ethel, The Pirate's Daughter." Meanwhile, Lady Viola (Gwyneth Paltrow), an aristocrat in a prearranged marriage, falls in love with Shakespeare's words and then Shakespeare himself.

Shakespeare is thunderstruck with her beauty and is so inspired he weaves her into his play. The plot then loosely follows that of Romeo and Juliet, with sexual innuendoes, brawls and true love, culminating in the first performance of the play and the sweet sorrow of parting.

Shakespeare in Love is a lot of fun for anyone who knows Romeo and Juliet. I would go so far as to say that you'll get 10 to 20 times the enjoyment if you've read Romeo and Juliet, and understand " how the spring of love resembleth the uncertain glory of an April day."

STUPID CUPID


THINK YOU KNOW EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT LOVE? WELL, IT'S A LOT MORE THAN JUST FATE AND SMOOCHES YEAH, HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU BUT ALL THOSE HAPPY COUPLES OUT THERE HAVE ME TO THANK I MASTERMIND THIS WHOLE ♥ BUSINESS. I SHOOT MY MAGIC LOVE ARROWS AND PRESTO! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HIT YOU. SO, I'LL ADMIT, SOMETIMES MY MATCHES AREN'T PERFECT, BUT WHERE'S MY INSPIRATION? WHEN YOU DO A JOB AS LONG AS I HAVE YOU BEGIN TO LOSE YOUR OOMPH.
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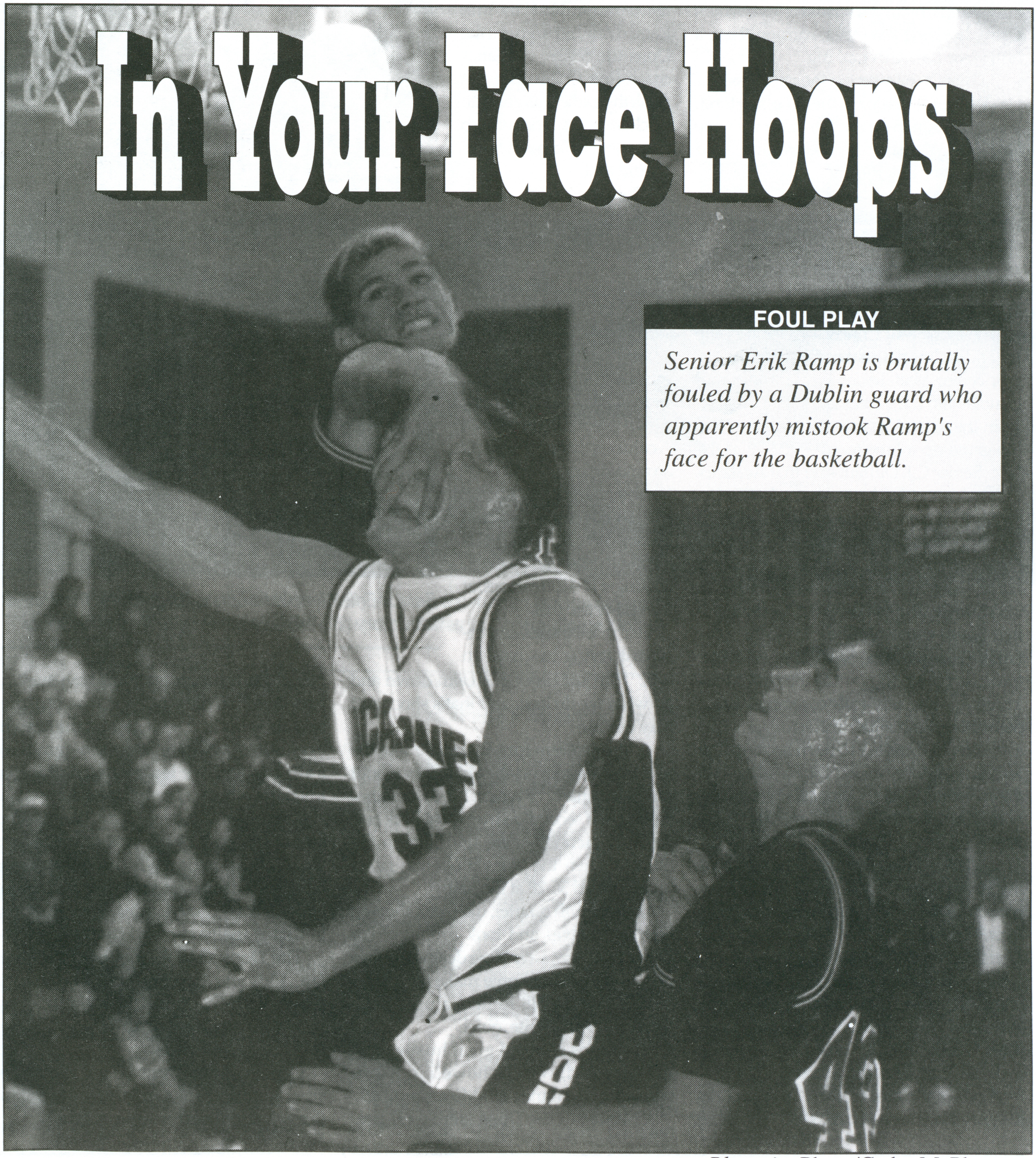
ACALANES BLUEPRINT SPORTS

INSIDE . . . . . .

Boys' basketball on top of their league.
pg.26

In Your Face Hoops



FOUL PLAY

Senior Erik Ramp is brutally fouled by a Dublin guard who apparently mistook Ramp's face for the basketball.

Blueprint Photo/Cathy McPhee

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Basketball Dominates League and Bay

By Reed Miller
Staff Writer

The ingenious play of the Acalanes boys' basketball team has raised eyebrows throughout the Bay Area, earning them a fifth place Bay Area ranking.

So what's the secret to their success?

"We're all seniors (the five starters). We've all known each other since we were little kids. We all have a good attitude," said senior starter Erik Ramp.

At 17-3, the Dons are on fire. Their goal, said Ramp, is to reach the NorCal playoffs and win league.

"(The coach's) main philosophy is that you have to work hard. If you do that, you can succeed," Ramp said.

The Dons beat Concord 72-59 at home on Friday, but not without a struggle. Senior center Matt Teichmann got into foul trouble with three fouls in the first quarter.

In the second quarter, the Dons opened the game up a little to go up 36-28 at the half. Senior C.J. Duffaut said that Acalanes focused on getting better shot selection because not all of their shots were falling.

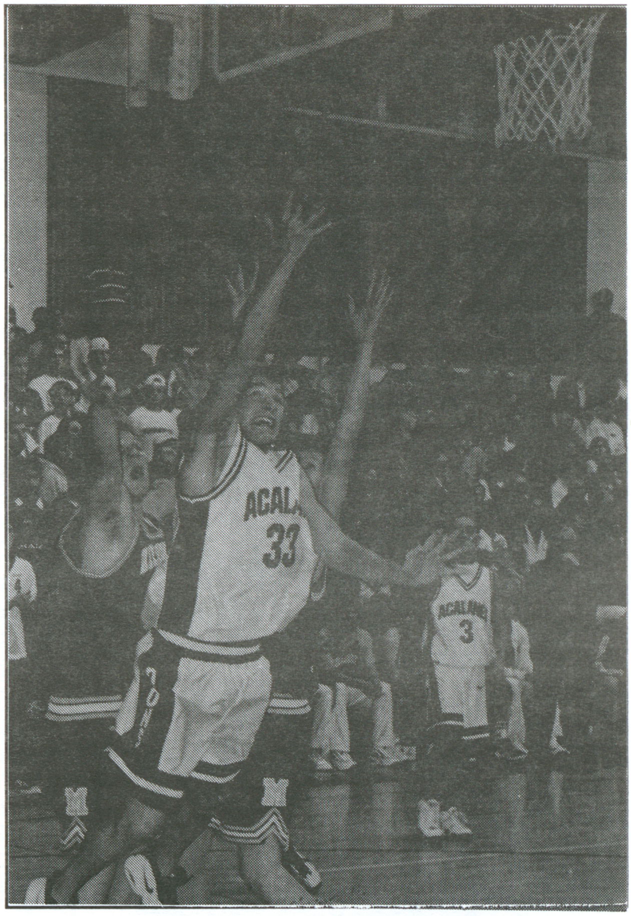
With a little help from the refs, Concord came within striking distance of the Dons. A foul was called on senior Justin Smith with four minutes to go in the third. One ref said that Smith contested the call, so he gave Smith a technical foul. Smith, now with four fouls, had to sit out a while along with Teichmann. The refs' calls continued a few possessions later when Erik Ramp grabbed a rebound, attempted to put it back up, but was questionably called for traveling. At the end of the third, Concord had completely caught up with Acalanes and tied it, 44-44.

In the fourth quarter, the Dons took control of the game at both ends. Their tenacious defense created turnovers for the offense to put more points on the board. The Dons were greatly assisted by Duffaut, whose inside play and double double, 17 points and 10 rebounds, propelled Acalanes to another win. "Somebody needed to step it up," said Duffaut, "and I took it upon myself as a captain and a senior."

Acalanes defeated the Las Lomas Knights at home on Jan. 26, 60-38. The game had been close until the half, but the Dons opened the game up in the third quarter. A slam dunk by Erik Ramp with 2:30 to go put the Dons up, 58-29. Acalanes coach Rob Collins did not think the game was going to be close. "Our goal was to hold them to 38 points, and we did that."

The Dons won a huge league victory over Miramonte at home on Jan. 22 by a score of 63-49.

The game started out slowly for Acalanes, possibly because this game was a big one. With only three minutes to go in the first quarter, the Dons were still down 16-9. From there, Acalanes turned things around defensively and offensively, and did not let Miramonte score again in the first quarter while scoring eight points themselves, making it 17-16, Acalanes, at the end of the first.


Blueprint Photo/Cathy McPhee

Senior Erik Ramp attempts a jump shot in the January 22 victory (63-49) against league rival Miramonte.

Ramp felt the team started out trying too hard to win. "We just needed to calm down and do what we do best, and that's shoot and play defense."

A key problem for Miramonte was the number of turnovers they had throughout the game, many of which led to Acalanes scores. The second quarter went back and forth momentum-wise, until late in the quarter when the Dons broke the game open and led 35-28 at the half.

In the fourth quarter, the Dons showed their true selves and took control of the game. The Dons swarming defense continued, making Miramonte make bad choices and keeping Bill Krause, a usual high scorer for Miramonte, quiet.

The Dons showed great hustle until the very end, which showed in the final score, Acalanes 63, Miramonte 49.

Collins felt the Dons were well-prepared for a tough league game such as this one. "I firmly believe that our preseason schedule was one of the toughest in the Bay Area, and each game, we built on, and we learned something to make us a better team," he said.

Miramonte Coach Tom Blackwood attributed part of the loss to his team's youth. "Krause is really our only returning player from last year...We're very inexperienced, and I think Acalanes' experience really showed tonight."

The Dons shot the lights out in their Jan. 15 home win over Mt. Diablo by a score of 75-58. Smith was the leading scorer for Acalanes with 21 points off of seven three-pointers.

On Jan. 9, the Dons beat Cavalry 76-58 at home, thanks in large part to free throws and a suffocating defense.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Deja Vu For Pumped-Up Lady Dons

By Jake Nicholson and Vanessa Totten
Staff Writer and Co-Editor-in-Chief

The Lady Dons went into their second season game vs. Concord High on Jan. 29 knowing that their opponent wasn't going to be a big challenge. However, sophomore Stephanie Daniel said , "We never really take it easy...We killed them." That is the understatement of the year. By the time the floor was cleared, the final score was 102-18 Acalanes. Five players scored 10 points or more.

Acalanes also put on a bloody show in their game against Concord on Tues., Jan. 5 with a merciless 97-29 victory (following a 70-17 victory for JV).

Concord did not need help recognizing Acalanes as the leader of the pack. With a record of 19-2, Acalanes is an obvious league leader. Concord Coach Pat Bropatroe came to the game realizing that he had a young, developing team that is "not at that level of competition yet."

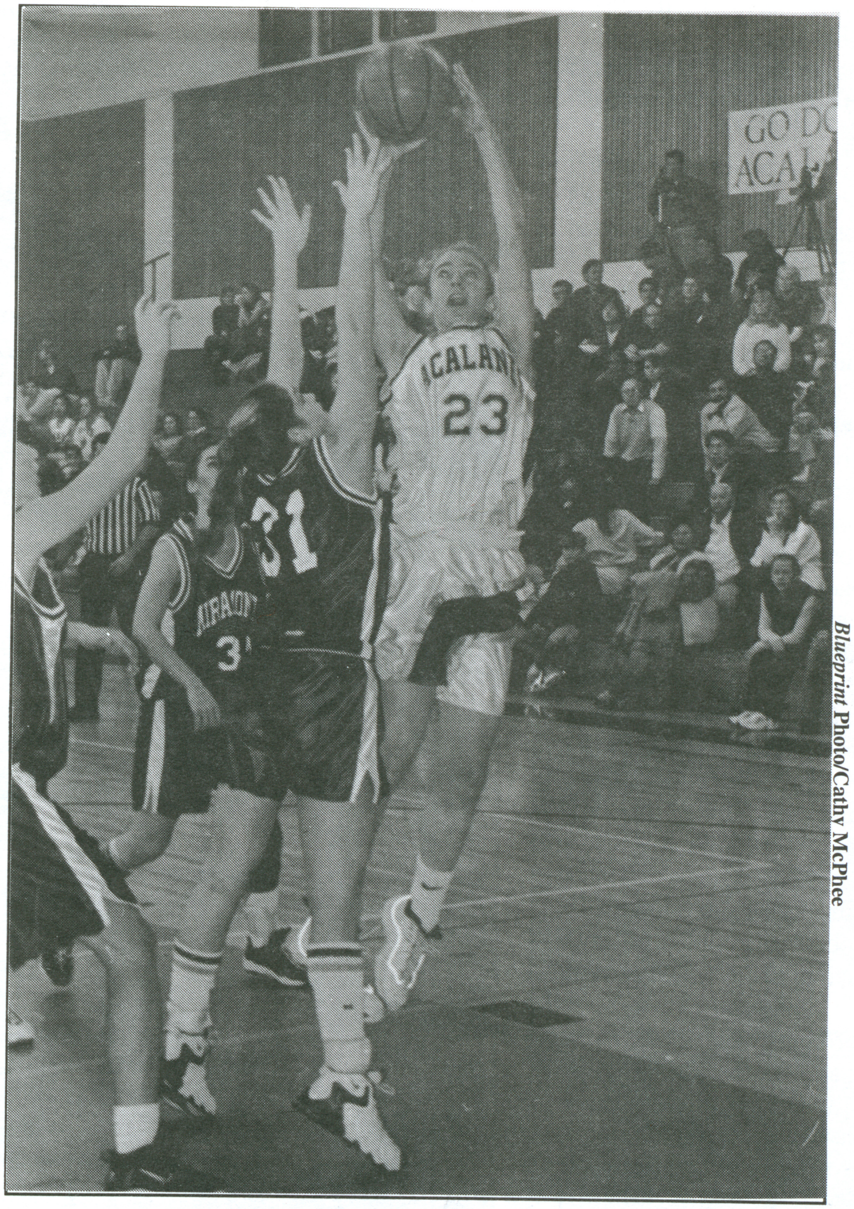
According to Acalanes' Lauren Murray, a veteran leader of the team, Acalanes had the advantage in the game because they worked harder (shows in the numbers), rebounded better, and were a little taller, which is unusual considering that Acalanes is relatively small in size. Coach Casey Rush added a superior defense and court awareness.

Despite the unrelenting slaughter, the Dons kept the game and the audience alive with fancy passing and experimentation with new plays. Every player got court time to "show what they can do," said Rush, and the team used the opportunity to work on their three-quarter court trap.

The Dons also slaughtered the Las Lomas Knights on Jan. 26. However, this win was less expected. The 79-43 victory was even sweeter, because according to Daniel, "They've had a really good record this year...They thought they were going to beat us." Acalanes' victory was aided by junior Corrie Mizusawa's consistent scoring throughout the game.

The team's Jan. 22 game against Miramonte was the most exciting of the season, according to senior Rachel Rosemeyer. "We were the most pumped up," she said. The game was closer than the Dons usually like. More sweat than blood was shed in this 67-27 victory. The Mats took the first quarter, scoring 14 points. The Dons stepped up their defense in the three successive quarters, only allowing another 13 points in the games, allowing their offense to knock the Mats down to size. Mizusawa had another great game, scoring six three-pointers. After last year's Miramonte game when four technical fouls ended the game a few seconds early, Mizusawa said of the Miramonte team, "We hate each other."

On Jan. 16, the Dons experienced a whole new feeling. There was a slaughter, but instead of being the victors in the non-league game against Archbishop Mitty, they were the victims of the San Francisco team. Though Daniel admitted the game was "a big upset," she said, "We never really gave up." Senior Megan Babcock said, "It was really hard to lose because we are not used to losing, especially by that much." Babcock said they "started strong and pumped up," but could not beat Mitty.



Blueprint Photo/Cathy McPhee

Senior Rachel Rosemeyer attempts a jumpshot in the Lady Dons 67-27 victory over league rival Miramonte on January 22 at home.

HOOP DREAMS

SIDELINES

Can't Be Like Mike

By Chris Vetek
Sports Editor

Michael Jordan had no parallels in his day. He had no competitors, no equals, no challenges in the NBA.

On Jan. 13, 1999, a day that will live in sports infamy, Jordan announced his retirement. The world shook, the already crippled NBA tumbled into mediocrity, and the fat lady sang.

One gasps when first hearing about Jordan getting cut from the team his sophomore year in high school in Wilmington, North Carolina in 1978. Yes, The Man once seemed human. Not for long, however.

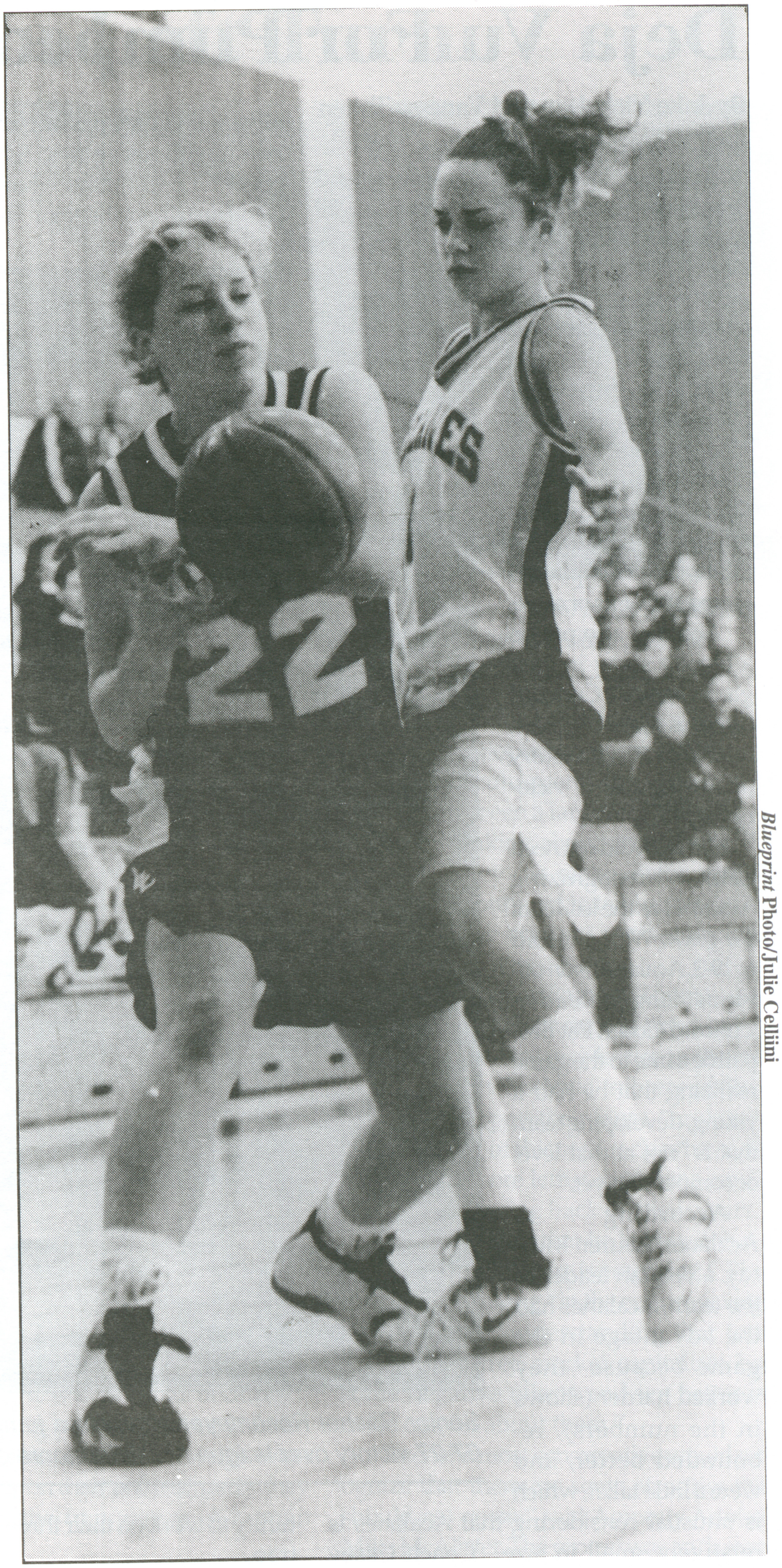
The real Man first appeared in 1982. Playing for the legendary Dean Smith, Jordan hit the game-winning shot to help North Carolina defeat Georgetown, 63-62. In 1985 he won Rookie of the Year. In 1986-87 he averaged 37.1 points per game. In '87 he took flight from the free throw line to throw down a perfect dunk, winning his first of two consecutive dunk contests.

In 1988 he became the season's MVP for the first time. In 1989 his own "yoda," Phil Jackson, became coach of the Bulls, and together they led Chicago to three consecutive championships in '91-'93. After his dad's murder in '93, he retired to pursue baseball, before returning in '95. In 1996 he led Chicago to another title over Seattle. He returned at the top of his game in 1997 with a fifth championship over Utah. As in a fairytale, Jordan made the game-winner over Utah in the '98 finals, evoking memories of that 1982 shot. Will there be another like him?

He was so fast, so agile. Many argue he cannot be judged as the best ever. Sure, looking at numbers, he has many records, but others still compare. At total points (29,277), he lags Chamberlain (31,419) and Abdul-Jabbar (38,387).

Anyone who saw the '91 finals against the Lakers, where Jordan hung in the air, switched the ball to his left hand and floated it off the board, knows his magic. Abdul could only dream of that air time. Chamberlain could not even dream of it. Mr. Basketball played flawlessly. Bird stood outside that three-point line, waiting for real players like Jordan to penetrate and dish out. No, he had no peers.

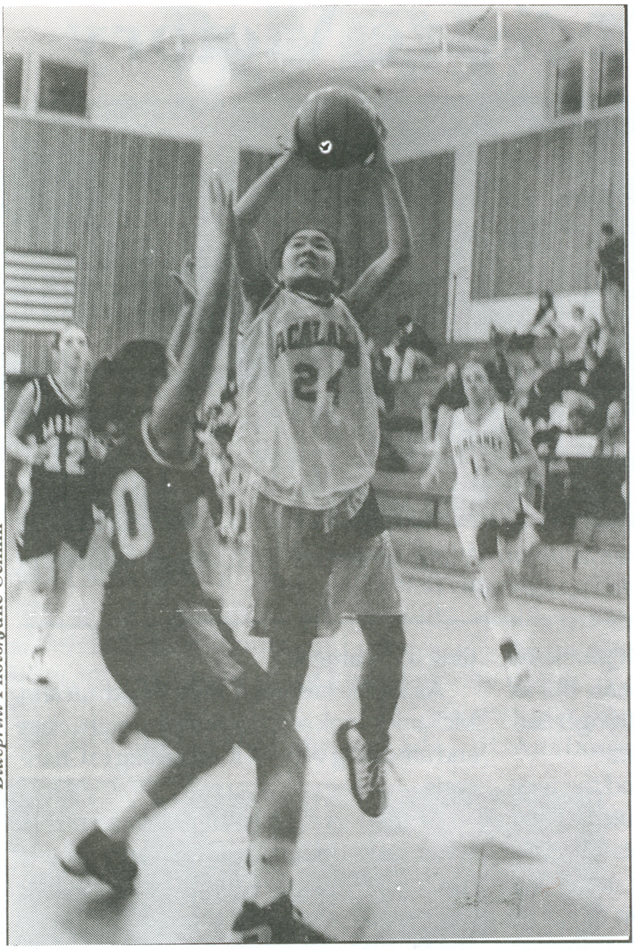
Yet out of the depths of post-Michael mediocrity, another will appear. He will lift this game up to its deserving pedestal once more, and The Man will smile. This Anointed One has yet to appear, but wait two years. Three years tops. Yes, life finds a way, and the NBA's life will depend on The Man II. Just wait.



Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini

Whoops! A Lady Knight loses control of the ball after a face-off against the Dons' junior post Lauren Murray. The Dons dominated the Las Lomas game and their season.

HOOP DREAMS



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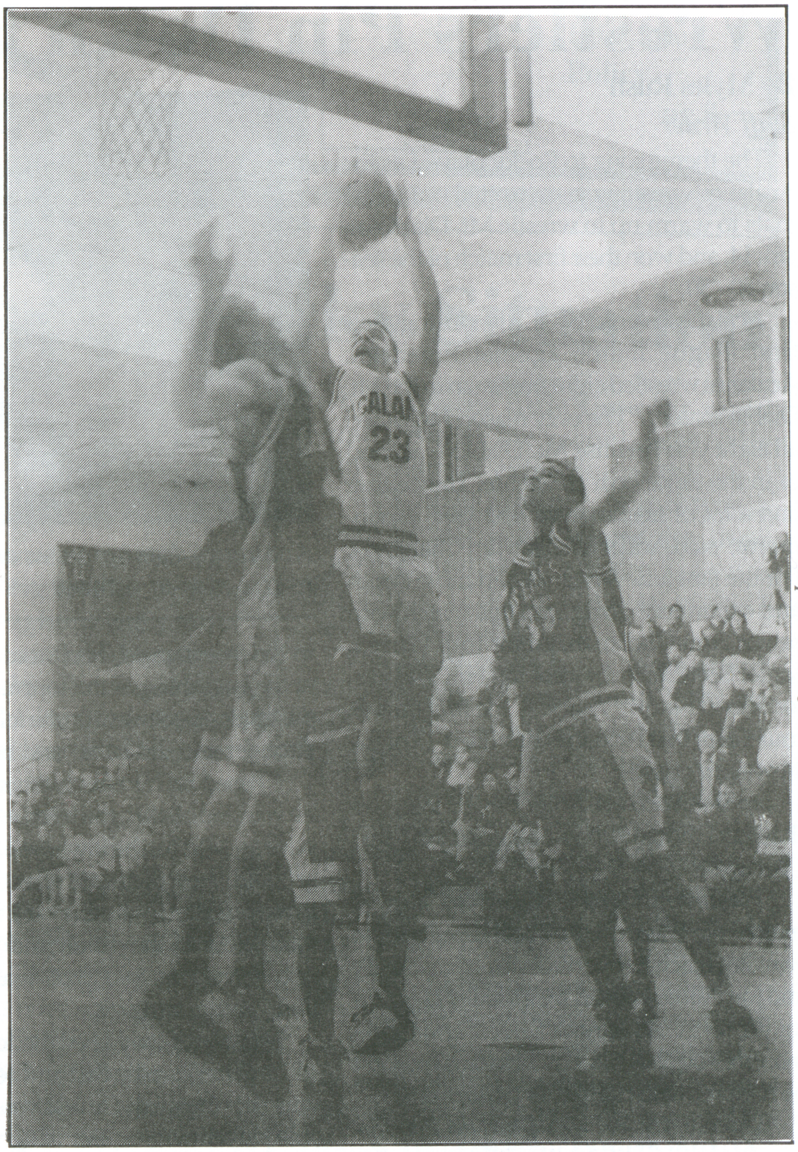

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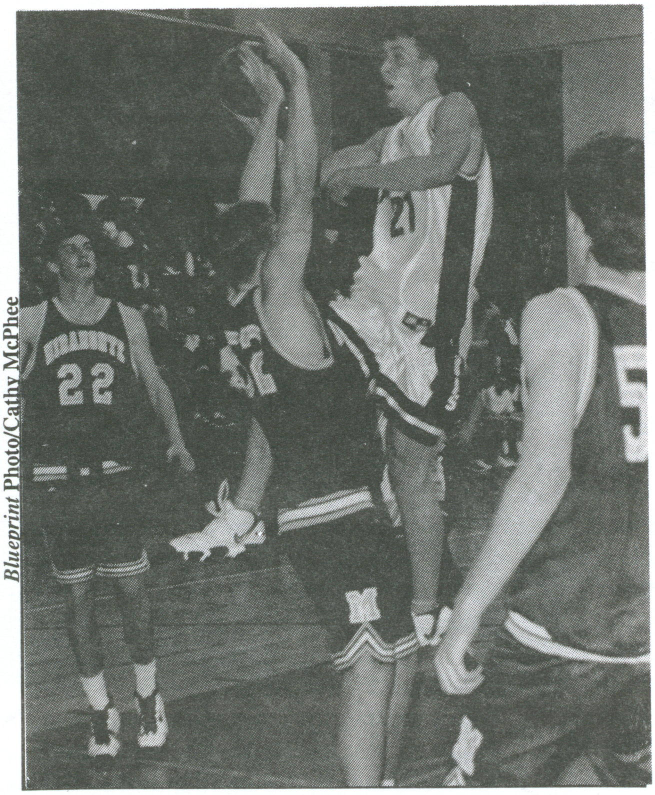


Blueprint Photo/Cathy McPhee

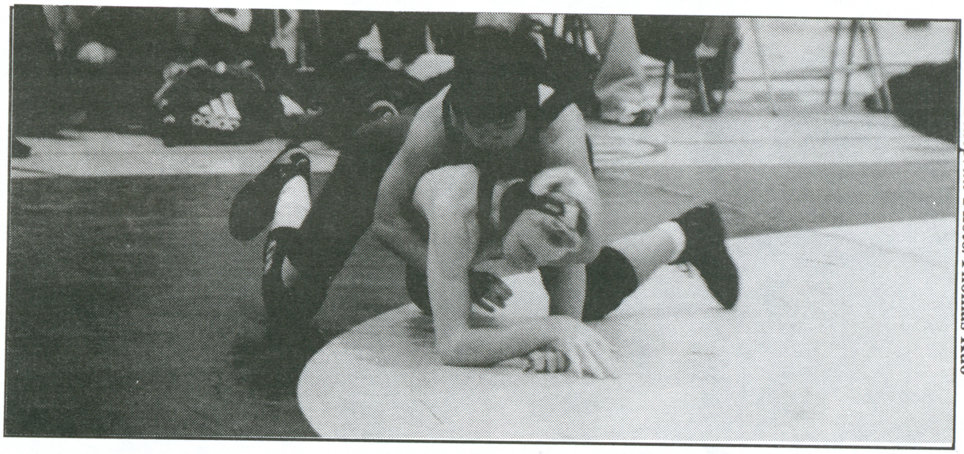
HOOP DREAMS

Top Left: Junior guard Corrie Mizusawa drives in to score past a late Knight on defense. The valiant Knights failed to contain Mizusawa. This game was yet another victory for the Lady Dons, who are 19-2 this season. Mizusawa has had a record-breaking season, scoring six three-pointers in the Miramonte game.
Top Right: Junior guard Brett Gingery attempts to leave three Las Lomas guards on the floor while making a jump shot in a recent game. Gingery, a transfer from De La Salle, has been a very valuable player for the Dons this year. The 60-38 victory against Las Lomas was no exception.
Bottom Left: Senior Matt Teichmann finds an opening after the dish-in while a Matador guard helplessly thrusts up his hands in defense. The Matadors' defense was never quite adequate, as the Dons dominated with a 63-49 victory at the Jan. 2 home game.

WRESTLING

Wrestlers Pin Down Decisive Victory

By Myles Rush
Staff Writer



Blueprint Photo/Thomas Kuo

Acalanes freshman wrestler William Wong wrestles a Concord opponent to the mat in a meet on Friday, Jan. 29.

The theme song to Rocky played as the Acalanes wrestling team trotted out to the mats to warm up to wrestle Mt. Diablo on Jan. 14, and won their first match of the season 50 - 30.

Acalanes' record is 1-1, after losing their first league match against Freedom. Acalanes wrestled eight freshman in the Mt. Diablo match. "The only reason I wrestled all eight was because Mt. Diablo was kind of in the same boat as we are. They either had a lot of freshman or first year sophomores," said Acalanes coach Jim Changaris. For the first time Acalanes had more depth and experience going into this match with senior Sam Glickman, junior Josh Garrett, senior Scott Seibert, junior Jon Hill, and junior Navid Nouri. This was the first time in four years that Acalanes has filled 13 of the 14 weight classes.

"In the match last night even the guys that lost I thought did a real good job," said Changaris.

Freshman Gabe Golfus had a great match. He was down 1-7 and came back to win the match in overtime. Brothers Andy and Jon Hill combined for a total of 11 points for the team. As of now, Seibert and Glickman are both 2-0. Coach Changaris couldn't be happier with his team's performance.

"Overall, I think we've turned the program around a little bit, we still have to finish out the season and also do some recruiting for next year."

The wrestling team needs a heavy weight, a 215-pound wrestler, and also some light weights, said Changaris. If the team gets those people and have a full roster, it will have a chance to wrestle in the big gym.

Acalanes traveled to Albany on Jan. 21, and lost the match against Albany with only four guys wrestling varsity. They had three out of the five wrestlers for JV win. Freshman Steve McKinley holds the record at Acalanes for the quickest pin, which was in 17 seconds.

Seibert won the MVP award for the upper weight classes at the Mt. Eden tournament on Jan. 23, on a day he didn't feel particularly well. Seibert, who was seeded third in the tournament, had stomach problems at the beginning of the tournament. But as the tournament went on, he felt stronger and stronger and did better and better.

"Based on his efforts there and the way he wrested all day, the referees voted...They have an MVP of the lower weights (first seven) and they pick one wrestler out of all, those wrestlers who they fell was the most valuable and they took and MVP for the upper weights, and Scott was selected for that," said Changaris.

Seibert not only won the tournament at 160, but he beat the first and second seeded wrestlers to win it. He was voted most valuable player in the upper weight classes, and it shows he's come a long way. Nouri took fourth in the 181 weight class. Glickman tied for second in the 119 weight class, and he was seeded fourth.

The freshman and varsity players were both busy on Jan. 9, participating in a tournament at Las Lomas. In the freshman tournament there was a separate section for girls. Senior Tomoko Roudebush took home a first place gold medal in her weight class.

"It was really intimidating there because some of my opponents from other schools were there, and they were very good wrestlers, and I was really excited that I won the gold medal for my weight class, 130. I beat the two girls, the first girl I pinned, and the second I beat her 13-2," said Roudebush.

She was the first girl that attended Acalanes to ever win a gold medal at a wrestling tournament.

As for the freshmen, Brett Woodruff and McKinley took second in their weight class and are doing very well, according to Changaris.

At the Las Lomas Invitational on that same day, three wrestlers represented Acalanes. Seibert took fourth place in a challenging 160 pound weight class. Hill took seventh place, pinning two of his opponents, and Nouri took seventh place as well, pinning one person.

"Between those three people all three of them placed, which I thought was kind of nice," said Changaris.

Acalanes fought against Freedom at Freedom in a dual meet on Jan. 7, and eight varsity players wrestled. Six out of the eight people that wrestled for Acalanes won their weight classes. The Dons had enough wrestlers to compete in only eight out of the possible fourteen weight classes. In the 119 pound weight class, Steve McKinley beat his opponent seven to one. Glickman wrestled at 125, and beat his opponent by more than fifteen points. Acalanes lost the 135 and 140 pound weight classes. Garrett beat his man in the 152 class. At 160 pounds Seibert pinned his man. Hill and Nouri won their matches as well. The eight people Acalanes did put out wrestled very well.

"I would predict if these freshman stick with it and the upper class coming back next year, next year we'll be tough...we're going to be dynamite by the time they're juniors."

GIRLS' SOCCER

Dons Give Alhambra the Boot in Easy Victory

By Teressa Wickham
Staff Writer

Senior Alexis Machado drives an opposing team's forward away from the goal in a recent game.

Blueprint Photo/Robyn Jones

With mud-stained shorts and grass filling their hair, the Lady Dons walked off the field with an easy victory of 3-1 over Alhambra at home on Jan. 15. Alhambra fell short of its expectations, and the Dons took advantage of their weakness trampling them with ease.

Struggling throughout the game, Alhambra's only chance to score came from a lucky break, leading to their only goal.

"After our first two goals, we settled the ball down and concentrated on playing possession. Our confidence level was boosted, so we started playing our own game," said senior Beth Barbera.

In the beginning of the first half, forward Beth Barbera came flying down the field at full force, dodging defenders left and right, as she whizzed past them. She dribbled the ball to the left hand corner of the field, shot and the ball flew perfectly to the right corner of the net.

Later in the second half, Barbera rushed down field again, brought the ball out to the left, and passed it off right to the center of the goal to her sister, sophomore forward Jenny Barbera. Jenny faked to the left, then shot it to the right hand corner of the net, where the goalie had no chance of stopping the ball.

Towards the end of the second half, junior half back Elise Dieden scored off of a corner kick. The ball came towards her, and she jumped up and shot it.

Defense was a brick wall and let nothing by. Sophomore defender Marimikel Charrier was the general for the defense army, and she fought tough and rough to the end of the game.

"Defense was strong and did a good job marking and cleaning the ball out," said Beth Barbera.

Alhambra tried relentlessly to come back during the game, but the girls used their sly tactics to overpower them and trample over them with their cleats.

With terrible weather threatening and water puddles that rose up to the ankles, the Lady Dons were unable to beat the brutal Miramonte Mats away on Jan. 20, with a loss of 1-2.

Junior defender Lizzie Block scored on a direct kick for the only goal of the game on the Acalanes side. Although Acalanes dominated the entire first half of the game, Miramonte came out strong and scored in the first minute of the second half.

"On a regulated field with a good ref and good weather, we could have beat Miramonte any day. We seriously had water up to our ankles, and the ball would stop because the standing water was so high," said Beth Barbera.

The Dons could have easily beaten Miramonte if the soccer ball hadn't stopped dead in the middle of the field every time it was kicked. Although the puddles were high, the weather was rotten, and the cleats were muddy, the Dons put up a good fight.

"I think that overall we're a better team than them, we just need to work on marking up in the back and in the midfield," said senior fullback Alexis Machado.

With an easy win of 2-1, the Lady Dons beat Las Lomas on Jan. 22. Like the Alhambra game, the Dons worked Las Lomas, and had them eating out of the palms of their hands.

"Everyone was working hard, and we scored our last goal in the last 30 seconds. They made us work hard," said Machado.

Sophomore mid-fielder Amanda Carroll scored in the first half, putting the Dons ahead by one. However, Las Lomas players took their only chance at a break and scored on it in the second half, tying the score.

"We never gave up after they scored. We kept pushing for a goal and we got it in the end," said Machado.

The Lady Dons dominated the entire game, but just couldn't put the ball in the back of the net. With 30 seconds left in the game, Beth Barbera took a shot right from the middle of the field from a pass from senior mid-fielder Heather Stretch to win the game.

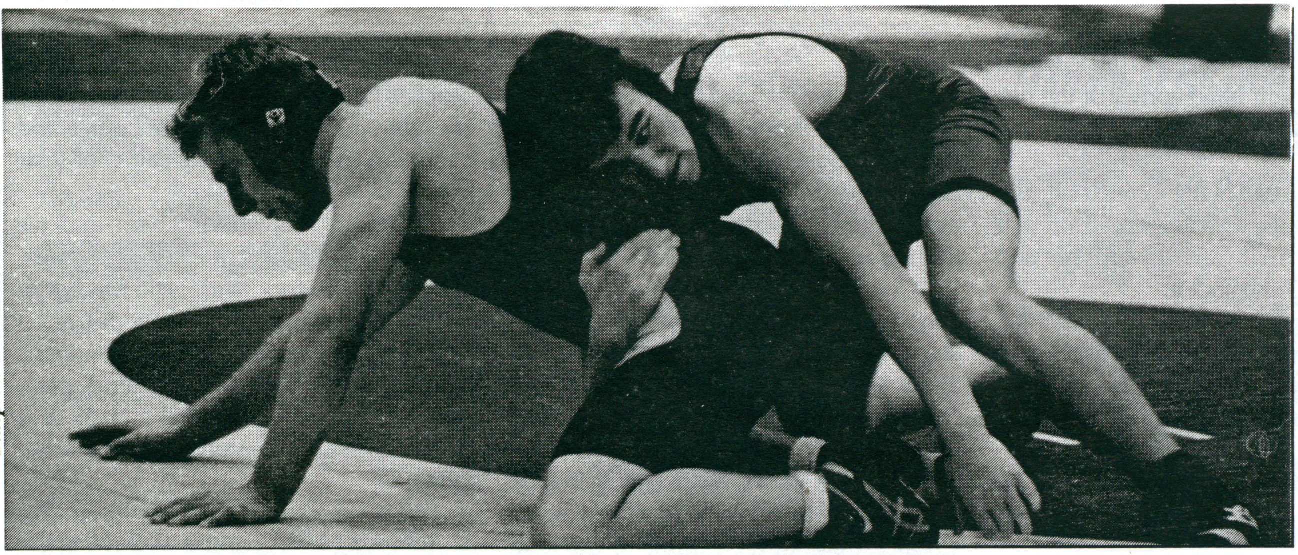
ATHLETES OF THE ISSUE

Robin Flier

Blueprint Photo/Robyn Jones

For her tenacious defensive play and quiet leadership on the Lady Dons' soccer team, junior stopper Robin Flier is our female Athlete of the Issue. "She's really tenacious at controlling the middle of the field and getting the ball from the opponent, and she has a really long kick," said sophomore teammate Marimikel Charrier. Coach Hal Macarthur described her play with two words: "quiet determination." "She has a rare ability to step up her game when needed. The whole team looks to her when we need to step it up. She doesn't go around telling people what to do. She just goes out and does it," said Macarthur. Flier is vital to the Lady Dons' success.

Scott Seibert


Blueprint Photo/Thomas Kuo

Senior veteran wrestler Scott Seibert is this issue's male Athlete of the Issue, after compiling a 10-1 record over the last two weeks. At the Clayton Valley tournament, Seibert lost in the finals, winning second place and going 3-1 in the tournament. He also had two pins. But Seibert's moment of glory came in the Mt. Eden tournament two weekends ago, when he went 5-0 and beat the two top-seeded wrestlers to win the championship. Seibert was voted Most Valuable Wrestler for the tournament, and brought positive attention to a squad in need of more wrestlers. Coach Changaris heaped much praise upon Seibert and recommended him for this honor.